

Sudan says coup bid foiled

KHARTOUM (AP) — The military government announced Wednesday it had arrested a number of civilians and military officers for allegedly plotting to stage a coup, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported. Quoting an official military source, SUNA said the arrested officers were planning a limited movement to achieve subversive objectives. "The situation is contained and in investigation has begun with those involved," said the military source who was not identified by name. He said Omar Hassan Al Bashir's government had been monitoring the activities of the arrested men for some time. He said they included Abdul Rahman Furrak, a former security adviser to the disbanded Umma Party who also is a retired navy officer. The military source gave no details on the number of detainees and when they were arrested. We indicated that those arrested belonged to the disbanded Umma and Communist parties. He said the two parties had joined 18 other political parties and 31 trade unions last October in signing a secret document called National Democratic Alliance charter.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Arabs to discuss intifada with EC

TUNIS (R) — Arab foreign ministers will meet European Community (EC) ministers in Luxembourg Monday in the first of several Arab missions designed to back the Palestinian intifada in the Israeli-occupied territories. Arab diplomats said the ministers, from Egypt, Syria and Tunisia and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), have a mandate from the Arab League's intifada committee and are the first of several such groups to travel abroad. Other teams drawn from the committee will visit Moscow and Washington but dates have not been fixed, they said. They will discuss developments in Middle East diplomacy and particularly the 27-month-old intifada and the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel, they added. The European Community ministers will be from the three countries which make the so-called triad of past, present and future chairmen — France, Ireland and Italy. Arab League Secretary General Chadli Kibbi will also attend the Luxembourg meeting.

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Arafat meets Mother Teresa

CALCUTTA (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat met Nobel laureate Mother Teresa Wednesday and said he was overjoyed to see the Roman Catholic nun. "Mother Teresa's work deeply touches my heart," said the PLO leader as he met the 79-year-old nun at her home in the east Indian city of Calcutta. In 1982, at the height of the Israeli siege of west Beirut where Arafat and his guerrillas were trapped, Mother Teresa braved the war to rescue mentally retarded children from a hospital near the front line. Arafat presented \$50,000 to Mother Teresa and gave her a star of Bethlehem made of pearls.

Suspects held in Thai killings

BANGKOK (AP) — One man has been arrested and another is being sought in the killing of three Saudi Arabian diplomats in Bangkok two months ago, police said Wednesday. A police statement said Suchart Herabi, 25, had been arrested and an arrest warrant had been issued for his brother, Suvee Herabi, 28, in connection with the killings. Five other suspects were being sought, the statement said. The statement said police Monday went to the southern province of Pattani to arrest Suchart. He escaped but later surrendered to authorities, it said. It said Suchart had recently completed a five-year jail term for robbery and assault.

Polisario: Morocco accepts partial pullout

ALGIERS (R) — A Polisario guerrilla leader said Wednesday that Morocco had agreed to the principle of withdrawing some troops from the disputed Western Sahara before a U.N. referendum on the territory's future. But Bachir Mustapha Sayed, external relations secretary of the independence-seeking Polisario, told a news conference that Polisario saw it as only a tactic to deflect international pressure.

France halts Lebanon mediation

BEIRUT (R) — Rival forces shelved each other in mountains northeast of Beirut Wednesday and France abandoned efforts to end two-months of bloodshed in Lebanon's Christian enclave. Political sources said French Ambassador Rene Ala had told Ambassador Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir that he was giving up his attempts to halt fighting between General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) leader Samir Geagea. "My contacts were fruitless. Any new battle would be suicidal and without result," the sources quoted Ala as telling Sfeir.

N. Yemen condemns U.S. Senate resolution

SANAA (R) — North Yemen Wednesday criticised a U.S. Senate resolution which termed Jerusalem the "capital of Israel" and said the decision violated international norms. A statement issued by the North Yemeni cabinet and carried by Sanaa Radio said the resolution, passed last Thursday, "contradicts United Nations principles and violates international law." It said the resolution also harmed United States' efforts to solve the Middle East problem.

Sudan, Libya plan merger secretariat

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan and Libya have agreed the secretariat-general organising the merger of the two countries should be based in Libya but the secretary-general should be a Sudanese, Khartoum newspapers said Wednesday. The army newspaper Guwat Al Massallah named Colonel Mohammed Al Amin Khalifa, a member of Sudan's 15-man ruling military junta, as saying the agreement reached Monday laid down that the Sudanese secretary-general would be chosen jointly.

King meets Abu Sharif; Abed Rabbo calls for Arab meeting on peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Wednesday Bassam Abu Sharif, political advisor to Palestine President and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and reviewed with him issues of common concern to Palestine and Jordan.

Abu Sharif presented the Palestinian view on the developments of the Palestine problem and heard King Hussein's assessment of current Arab affairs and international development, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The King stressed the need for a pan-Arab offensive at this critical stage to formulate a pan-Arab stand, Petra said. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shakar as well as King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office Wednesday Yasser Abed Rabbo, member of the PLO Executive Committee, with whom he discussed the question of Jewish immigration into Palestine.

At the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Information Ibrahim Izeddin and the Palestine ambassador to Jordan, discussion also covered ways to bolster Jordanian-Palestinian ties and provide assistance to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

The two sides reviewed current efforts to solve the Palestinian problem and to bring stability and peace to the region, according to Petra.

Abed Rabbo was quoted as

saying Wednesday that the PLO wanted a meeting with Egypt, Jordan and Syria to discuss Middle East policy.

"We believe recent developments, mainly the Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the crisis in the Israeli government, requires that we take a joint position," Abed Rabbo told Reuters.

"We have always called for coordination between Jordan, Syria, Egypt and the PLO... and we think this is the right time to hold such a meeting of foreign ministers," he said.

Abed Rabbo said he believed the four parties would agree to a meeting, which could help prepare for a full Arab summit, and voiced confidence that PLO-Syrian relations were on the mend.

"In the past two months there have been contacts and meetings with the Syrians and the possibility of improving relations is present," he declared.

Abed Rabbo, who leads the PLO team in a dialogue with the United States, said talks should continue even though they had made no real progress since they began in January 1989.

He blamed Washington for failing to make a clear statement in support of Palestinian self-determination.

"We think if their approach is to make small steps, this does not contradict with taking a major step to define the aims of a settlement," said Abed Rabbo.

This month's collapse of the Israeli coalition government over Palestinian-Israeli peace talks had blocked U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's diplomatic drive in the Middle East.

"The Americans know very well the PLO cannot go beyond the position it has taken — we accept a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue if it is based on equality and balanced platform."

He said Israel should accept that the Palestinian side would be named by the PLO and include delegates from outside as well as inside the occupied territories. It should also accept that talks would not be limited to procedures for elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

Abed Rabbo said it would make little difference to peace prospects if Labour Party leader Shimon Peres formed the next Israeli government unless he agreed to deal with the PLO.

"There is no role for Peres and Labour unless they adopt a more courageous position — to deal with the Palestinian option," he said.

Another PLO Executive Committee member, Mahmoud Abbas was quoted as saying by Petra that the PLO was closely watching developments in Israel.

"What we care about is to get a government that believes in a just and durable peace and agrees to start an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue as a prelude to an international conference," he was quoted as saying.

"We in the PLO and Jordan feel we need more cooperation to face challenges and situations sweeping the world, be they the changes in Eastern Europe, the migration of Soviet Jews, the Palestinian peace process or Arab developments," he added.

Abbas was passing through Jordan to an unknown destination, informed sources said.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday confers with Bassam Abu Sharif, advisor to Palestine President Yasser Arafat, in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Israelis blow up doors to arrest Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli security forces used explosives to blow down the doors of two houses in the Jerusalem village of Jabal Mukabbar Wednesday and make arrests, reports said.

Relatives said that Ibrahim Shkirat, 28, and his brother Mahmoud, 30, were detained. They said a cousin was taken into custody in a similar raid in a nearby village.

The Shkirats are brothers of the late Ahmad Mishal Shkirat. He died of serious burns last May 4, four days after the car he was driving exploded near Jerusalem's central police compound.

The vehicle was loaded with kerosene cans, but it was unclear at the time if the car was rigged to explode or the fire was accidental. The Israeli army will confine 650,000 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip to their homes from Thursday, military sources said Wednesday.

They said the curfew was aimed at preventing violence during a Palestinian nationalist anniversary.

"From 4 a.m. (0100 GMT) on Thursday, the Gaza Strip will be under curfew. Only local residents will be allowed to enter the Strip. The press may enter only with an army spokesman escort," one source said.

The military sources said they expected the curfew to continue through Land Day Friday, the anniversary of the 1976 killing by police of six Arabs in protests over land rights.

They said the army had not decided what steps it would take in the West Bank, where Palestinians were barred from entering Israel and Jerusalem on Land Day.

Day last year.

The underground leaders of the uprising called for a week of increased activity leading up to the March 30.

Land Day should be "a special day of clashes in which our people and the heroes of our strike forces will teach the settlers another lesson of the intifada (uprising)," said the latest leaflet of the United Leadership of the Uprising.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, in its leaflet, declared Ramadan, a month of jihad against Israel. It also called for a general strike Friday to mark Land Day.

Unknown assailants killed a 32-year-old Palestinian who worked for the United Nations and wounded six of his relatives in a West Bank refugee camp, the army and reports said Wednesday.

Reports said the dead man, identified as Yasser Kazmouz, had been accused of collaboration with Israel in slogans painted on walls in the Nur Shams refugee camp, where he lived.

They said more than 50 masked men participated in the raid and that they used a blow torch to break into the family home late Tuesday night.

Kazmouz was director of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) office at the camp. The army imposed a curfew on the camp of 6,000 residents.

UNRWA said it did not believe Kazmouz's work for the agency prompted the attack. Officials said they knew of no complaints against him in his eight years as camp services director.

JORDAN TIMES WEEKENDER

THE JORDAN TIMES Weekender sees the light today, after so many ideas and attempts to publish it had ended in failure in the past. What made it possible this time is first and foremost the determination of members of the staff who volunteered to spend more of their time at the newspaper to produce it. The Jordan Times needed the extra pages in its weekend issue, they insisted, and they were willing to start doing it right away.

The weekender is brought to life to fill the gap that has long existed in the newspaper; that is to provide our readers with light cultural, art and musical material which otherwise could not find its way into the pages of the Jordan Times for lack of space.

We hope it will be a useful and interesting addition to the Jordan Times. Please let us know if you have any suggestions or ideas that might contribute to its continuity and improvement.

The Editor

Arbatov predicts decline in Soviet Jews going to Israel

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A senior advisor to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was quoted Wednesday as saying the Arabs were exaggerating the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

Georgy Arbatov, a member of the Central Committee and the director of the United States and Canada Institute, also predicted the number of Soviet Jews going to Israel would be on the retreat.

Arbatov was quoted by the daily newspaper Al Watan. The Soviet official was invited to Kuwait by the Kuwaiti ambassador in Moscow for an exchange of views on recent developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and how these would affect traditionally strong ties between Moscow and the Arab World.

"The cold war has given Israel a size larger than its actual one... the mentality of the cold war and its considerations have played a very dangerous role in the U.S. Middle East policy," Arbatov said. "Therefore, I think the end of the cold war will mean many things to this region."

Kuwait is a pioneer among the Gulf Arab countries in developing ties with Moscow in the political, economic and military fields.

Arbatov's visit came against the background of uproar in the Arab World over the emigration of Soviet Jews and their settlement in Israel or the Israeli-occupied territories.

Arbatov assured the Arab World the Soviet Union would honour its commitments towards the Arabs in the post-cold war era, including pressuring Israel to relinquish the occupied lands or prevent the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

"I don't think the situation in the Middle East will remain as it is. It should change in line with other changes taking place," he said.

"The Arabs can depend on the Soviet Union in supporting a just settlement of the Palestinian question. The Soviet Union will honour its commitments, as we support the setting up of an independent Palestinian state, the liberation of the occupied territories and strongly oppose the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories," Arbatov added.

He said: "The question of Soviet-Jewish emigrants has been exaggerated. I don't think the number of emigrants will increase

or even that it will remain at its present standard. It will diminish if we succeed in applying international pressure. The issue may have been raised by the Israelis to spoil relations between the Soviet Union and the Arabs," he added.

Elaborating, Arbatov expressed the belief that the number of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel will be in the tens of thousands rather than hundreds of thousands.

"I think those emigration out of religious or racial motives have already left a long time ago, but new emigrants who seek higher standards of living will go to the United States and Western Europe rather than Israel," he said.

Israeli caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir claimed Wednesday that Arab states were encouraging "terrorists" to blow up planes carrying Soviet Jewish immigrants.

"Let the world open its ears and its eyes to Arab threats to blow up planes that carry Jewish immigrants. Let the world see the depth of Arab rejection of Israel's existence," Shamir told U.S. campaigners for Soviet Jewry.

Labour-Likud battle switches to money

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's two main political parties accused each other of trying to bribe rabbis Wednesday as the struggle to form a government switched from Middle East peace policy to budget allocations.

Religious parties which hold the balance of power between the Labour and Likud blocs demanded more money for their schools and charities before Thursday's parliamentary deadline for enacting the \$32-billion government budget.

The sum tentatively budgeted for religious institutions by parliament's finance committee soared from \$70 million on Sunday to \$125 million by late Wednesday, infuriating non-religious legislators.

"Every hour the decision is put off, the price goes up," moaned Ariel Weinstein of Likud.

"I'll sit in the opposition for a hundred years before I vote for any additional funding," Labour caucus chairman Haim Ramon vowed.

The four religious parties control 18 of the 120 seats in parliament.

Gorbachev, Thatcher discuss Lithuania

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev discussed the crisis in Lithuania with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Wednesday, as Moscow kept up pressure on the rebel Baltic republic to stay within the Soviet fold.

Thatcher had telephoned Gorbachev to congratulate him on his recent elevation to the new post of Soviet president, the official news agency TASS said.

The talks were apparently Gorbachev's first with a Western leader on Lithuania since the republic's newly-elected parliament declared independence from the Soviet Union March 11.

TASS meanwhile quoted Soviet Airborne Commander Colonel-General Vladimir Achalov as saying "a propaganda campaign to discredit the army and the navy is gaining momentum in Lithuania."

Achalov said on his return from Lithuania that provocations against servicemen and attacks by young hooligans on specific soldiers and military facilities were becoming more frequent in the republic.

TASS gave no details of Thatcher's and Gorbachev's talks, other than that Gorbachev had "replied to Thatcher's questions" and "described the developments in Lithuania which have emerged as a result of the violation of the Soviet constitution."

In London, British officials said the conversation lasted about 30 minutes, about half of which was taken up with translation.

On Lithuania, "the prime minister reiterated her call (made

Missionary shot dead in Lebanon

RASHAYA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Masked assailants killed an American Christian missionary in an Israeli-controlled area of South Lebanon after villagers accused him of planning to set up a Jewish settlement, security sources said Wednesday.

William Robinson, a 56-year-old former U.S. marine, was killed by three men armed with Kalashnikov rifles at his house in the village of Rashaya Al Foukhar Tuesday night.

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, reported that Israeli troops and their militia allies raided houses in Rashaya Al Foukhar, which has a population of around 4,000 people, and arrested an undisclosed number of people.

The headquarters of the 5,600-man United Nations peacekeeping force in South Lebanon, whose Norwegian battalion police Rashaya Al Foukhar in the foothills of Mount Hermon, confirmed the slaying.

The Lebanese Communist Party claimed its men killed Robinson and said in a statement: "His execution brought an end to schemes to plant Jewish settlers in South Lebanon."

The Lebanese National Resistance Front, an alliance of 12 leftist factions that include the Communists, also claimed responsibility in a statement. But it did not specify which faction assassinated Robinson.

"One of our units Tuesday night carried out the death sentence against William Robinson, who was seeking to establish an Israeli settlement on Lebanese territory," the statement said.

The Israelis have occupied the 10-16-kilometre zone since mid-1985, when they withdrew the bulk of their army from Lebanon, three years after invading the country.

Rashaya Al Foukhar is 13 kilometres northeast of the Israeli border inside the "security zone."

The Lebanese government of President Elias Hrawi had ordered an investigation into

Row with press can end soon, Arar says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The speaker of the Lower House of Parliament has said that the row between the press and the House can come to a speedy end if there is a joint will by both to tackle issues between them before they fester and if the intention is to protect the democratisation process in Jordan.

In a letter he sent to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times Chairman Mahmoud Al Kayed, Mr. Suleiman Arar said nobody, including the press, had a monopoly on press.

Mr. Arar briefly outlined the realms of the legislative, executive and judiciary authorities as well as that of the press, and said "there can be no responsibility without authority and no authority without responsibility."

Following is the text of Mr. Arar's message:

Relations between the Lower House and the media have been marred ever since the publication of discussions that took place at a secret parliamentary session.

Soon after Al Ra'i daily published the deliberations, the House decided to investigate the leakage and find out why the media went ahead and published the secret discussions with total disregard of the Press and Publication Law.

A committee was set up to hold the investigations and it had summoned you and the president of the Jordan Press Association to learn about your sources that leaked Parliament discussions.

We had hoped that you would cooperate with Parliament in a spirit of democracy and reveal the sources of your information. But instead, you chose to pour a torrent of angry words marked with some mockery and scorn and amazement at such request.

You clearly stated that the law does not allow you to reveal the source of information, prompting the committee to give up further investigation. The committee, however, did not point out that the Press and Publications Law prohibits the publication of secret discussions held in Parliament.

The committee had first suggested that the case should be referred to court, but later it said an apology for violation of the law would be enough.

I was surprised later to read an article in the same paper full of calumny directed at the Lower House. The article accused the House of going in a vicious circle trying to discuss the rudiments of democracy and trying to control the press. The same article accused the deputies of being ignorant of the basic rules of democracy and said that in democratic countries the media constitute the fourth estate, preventing the other authorities from imposing their total hegemony on the public. The article accused members of Parliament of indecisiveness and tried to draw a wedge among Parliament deputies by saying: Why don't the deputies revert to the security departments of Jordan to hold investigations with their colleagues in Parliament?

I would like to point out that if democracy, as interpreted by the writer of the Al Ra'i article, allows the press to violate the law and publish all that is banned by law concerning deliberations of Parliament's secret sessions, then we are facing a new sort of democracy which we have not yet heard of. We could call this democracy as one that overrides all world laws and constitutions.

The press accuses us of going around in a vicious circle, trying to understand the rudiments of democracy and that a Parliament member is more or less forced to accept the views and opinions of the majority although he might hold a different view.

We request that the media provide us with the correct principles for going about our business since we are accused of being ignorant and require advice in this regard.

As to the proposal that the media should constitute "a fourth estate" in the country, I would like to point out the following:

In my view, authority comes as a natural result of historical, social and political developments in a country, and every country is in need of organisers who can take over management and administration and is in need of laws that can control and organise relations among the citizens and classes. This authority has now been developed and the people have

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Scholar exposes negative impact of pro-Israeli groups in Congress

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The influence pro-Israel political action committees (PACs) have on the U.S. Congress has as negative impact on American policies in the Middle East, according to Richard Curtiss, the executive director of the American Educational Trust and editor of the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

Curtiss, a retired U.S. Information Agency (USIA) foreign service officer, has written a book on pro-Israel PACs and the U.S. Congress, entitled "Stealth PACs: How Israel's American Lobby Took Control of U.S. Middle East Policy." He presented the book and addressed the issue of PACs during a press briefing held at the National Press Club on March 26.

Political Action Committees are special interest lobbying organizations. Virtually every special interest in the United States has a PAC. Among the largest PACs in the United States are the National Association of Realtors, the American Medical Association, the National Education Association and the National Association

of Federal Employees. Federal law limits PAC contributions to election campaigns to \$10,000 to each candidate.

Curtiss said pro-Israel PACs have worked against policies in the U.S. Congress that benefit the United States, citing their opposition to arms sales to moderate Arab countries as one example. The enormous sums of money at the disposal of these PACs contribute to their clout and "control over Congress," he said.

In the 1988 elections, pro-Israel PACs collected \$12 million and spent over \$5 million, Curtiss said. This sum is larger than the sum spent by any one of the five largest PACs in the United States, who contributed \$2 mil-

lion each to candidates in 1988, he added.

There are several factors that make pro-Israel PACs stand out, Curtiss said. Nearly all these PACs have non-descriptive names, such as "National PAC," "Hudson Valley PAC," and "San Francisco For Better Government," he pointed out. By using non-descriptive names, these PACs are concealing their goals and source of funding, Curtiss said. Parker Payson, the chief researcher for the book, noted that the use of non-descriptive names is not limited to pro-Israel PACs.

Curtiss also noted that there are few counter-lobbies to the pro-Israel PACs and that those that do exist are not as effective. "Arab-Americans are not organized as a group," Curtiss said. These groups do not have "the motivation or organizational background to mount a counter-effort" to pro-Israel PACs, Curtiss said.

Challenged by one reporter who noted the existence and influence of organizations such as the National Association of Arab Americans and the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Curtiss said. "The record shows that when it comes to influencing Congress and the economic clout behind them, they don't have it."

Arafat pleads for a De Gaulle from Israel

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was quoted Wednesday as appealing for the rise of an Israeli leader with the courage of France's Gen. Charles De Gaulle to work out a settlement to the Palestinian problem.

"We are offering the peace of the brave. Is there a De Gaulle or an Ian Smith in Israel?" Arafat asked in an interview published in the Saudi Arabian newspaper Asharq Al Awsat.

Both leaders dared to go against the tide in reversing their previous stands and forging peace, France's De Gaulle in the Algerian war and Smith in the former British colony of Rhodesia.

Arafat was stressing the commitment of his Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem with Israel.

He said the PLO's decision to adopt the new policy "was more difficult to take than firing the first bullet in the Palestinian armed struggle against Israel some 25 years ago."

He said it took the PLO leadership 640 hours of dialogue before agreeing to the initiative announced in Algeria in late 1988. It involved the first explicit acceptance of the state of Israel and envisaged an independent state side by side with the Jewish state on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"You make peace with your enemies, and we do not bury our heads in the sand as Shamir and before him Begin did," said Arafat in affirmation of the peace option.

He was referring to Israel's former Prime Minister Menachem Begin and caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, consecutive leaders of the hard-line Likud Bloc which refuses to deal with the PLO.

Shamir has been reluctant to pick up on U.S. proposals for a peace dialogue with the Palestinians to pave the way for a settlement.

Asharq Al Awsat said the Palestinian leader refused to say when the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue was likely to take place, saying "it does not depend on us alone."

Arafat rejected suggestions that the peace initiative would lead to any splits within Palestinian ranks, or that there were differences within the leadership of the intifada with the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas.

Hamas is part of the PLO and they deal with the United Leadership of the intifada through Fateh. They have the right to their point of view which we respect. We believe in plurality, he said.

Fateh is Arafat's mainstream guerrilla group under the umbrella of the PLO which he also leads.

'U.S. failed to exert real pressure on Israel'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) feels that the United States wishes to continue the dialogue with the Palestinians and to reach peace but this process is very slow and the United States has so far failed to exert real pressure on Israel to change its position, according to a leading PLO figure in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The dialogue is still going ahead but very slowly, and is being conducted in two forms: one of them directly in Tunis and the other through Egyptian diplomacy, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas said.

"The PLO was happy recently to hear President Bush announce that the city of Jerusalem is an occupied territory only to be frustrated shortly afterwards to hear the U.S. Senate announce that the city of Jerusalem was the unified capital of Israel and part of the Jewish state," Abbas noted.

He said the U.S. Senate's statement constituted a clear contradiction of United Nations Security Council resolutions which emphasised that the city of Jerusalem is part of Palestinian land occupied since 1967.

Referring to the on-going developments within the Israeli government, Abbas said that the downfall of the Shamir government came as a result of differences among Israeli political parties with regard to a settlement for the Palestine issue.

"What we are concerned about now is to see an Israeli government which can really believe in a just and genuine peace, and which accepts the idea of opening a dialogue with the Palestinian people to pave the way for the convening of an international conference that would lead to a lasting settlement," Abbas pointed out.

The PLO and Jordan are concentrating their efforts to deal with all eventualities especially with the consequences of continued Jewish influx into Palestine, Abbas said.

"The question of Jewish immigration is important for Jordan and the PLO in particular since the absorption of more Jews means expansion of Israel's borders, which constitutes a real danger to the Arab countries adjoining Israel," Abbas pointed out.

He said that the PLO was maintaining good ties with Jordan and Egypt and was trying to improve relations with Syria.

Algerian parties want more time to prepare for polls

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's opposition is demanding more time to prepare for the first multi-party elections in 30 years now set for June, with some opposition groups threatening to boycott the poll.

Virtually all the major opposition parties, legalised last year, have demanded postponement of the elections, charging that the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) has an unfair edge.

They say the fledgling parties are still scrambling for offices, telephones and membership fees while the FLN, sole legal party for 27 years, is sitting pretty on a fat state budget in control of most state-owned media.

At least one party, the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), has threatened to boycott the poll, and the tiny Popular Association for Unity and Action has called all opposition parties to a meeting Saturday to draw up a common stand.

But with the deadline for submitting candidate lists for the local and provincial elections only two weeks away, most major parties are preparing to enter the fray despite reservations.

"We consider the postponement necessary to allow all concerned, especially citizens, to prepare," said the Communist Socialist Vanguard Party (PAGS).

But PAGS is one of four parties that have picked up candidate applications in the western city of Oran, and a PAGS activist told Reuters Wednesday, "even if there is no postponement we will participate."

The powerful fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), while also urging postponement and accusing local FLN officials and police of harassing its activists, is drawing up lists and urging voters to register.

So is the Rally for Culture and Democracy, a party likely to do well in Berber-speaking Kabylie and Aurès mountain regions east of the capital.

"The problem is one of means. In many towns we have no office at all, and in others we have barely enough space for a table and a telephone," said an FFS activist who asked not to be named.

"In Poland the ruling party gave all its assets to the state. That hasn't happened here," he said, noting the FLN still occupied the massive downtown building that housed the French colonial administration before 1962.

The government has offered the parties an average of six million dinars (\$700,000) each to help them campaign, and 14 out of 21 have accepted. Others, including the FFS, refused the offer, saying it paled in comparison to FLN funds.

President Chadli Benjedid has promised the elections will be free and fair, but opposition activists are sceptical.

They want more time to study key laws that set the powers of the town and provincial councils, adopted only this week by the FLN-run parliament.

Carter: International peace conference necessary

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter, just back from a private peace-seeking mission to the Middle East, said Tuesday there will be no end to unrest there without an international peace conference for the region.

Carter, who briefed President George Bush for 35 minutes on his trip, said he was encouraged about the prospects for peace.

"I think that there's a general acceptance now that a comprehensive peace is not only necessary but I think inevitable," he said.

Nonetheless, Carter said "it was distressing that the Middle East is still in turmoil 11 years after he helped negotiate the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt."

Carter refused to predict when any kind of negotiations might begin in the Middle East. The United States has long opposed such a broad-ranging, many-nations conference, preferring direct negotiations among the states involved.

The Israeli coalition government recently fell, not long after Bush stirred controversy by criticising the settlement of Soviet Jews in East Jerusalem.

"The United States has been pressing Israel to open talks with the Palestinians of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has been trying to put together a Palestinian delegation, Carter noted.

"I think our government ought to use its maximum influence — not pressure — in Israel and the other countries as well as to the bargaining table to find peace," he said.

"There will be no end to the intifada — the term used for the Palestinian uprising against Israel — until there is an international peace conference," Carter said in remarks at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank he visited after his trip to the White House.

Carter said he believes the intifada was caused by the way the Israelis have treated Palestinians.

Carter said he brought up human rights repeatedly in Israel, complaining about practices such as detaining Palestinians for 12 months without allowing access to a lawyer.

Israelis of all parties have said prospects for talks with Palestinians were threatened by Bush's statement that the United States did not want to see additional Jewish settlements established in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem. Past U.S. statements on the subjects have not specifically mentioned East Jerusalem, which Israel has annexed.

"Carter defended Bush's statements. I think what President Bush has expressed is a policy that's been our government's... for the last 23 years."

The U.S. government has for years insisted that the final status of East Jerusalem could be determined only by negotiations.

Carter visited Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan on his latest trip.

Egypt calls on superpowers to ensure Palestinian rights

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Egypt has called on the United States and the Soviet Union to ensure that the rights of Palestinians would not be jeopardised by increased immigration to Israel.

In a Security Council debate on the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, Ambassador Amr Mousa said Egypt viewed Israeli settlement practices with increasing alarm although it did not dispute the right of any state to receive immigrants.

"The two superpowers have an instrumental role to play," he said. "Egypt calls upon them to make sure that the rights of the Palestinian people shall not be jeopardised by the increased immigration to Israel."

China, in its first brief speech on the issue, did not mention the Soviet Union by name but condemned Israel. Ambassador Li Luyue called Israel's actions intransigent and contrary "to the prevailing tide in the world scene."

He said Israel had "rejected the international Middle East conference on the one hand and refused dialogue and talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the other, thus making it impossible to achieve any substantive progress."

He called on Israel to give up its "erroneous" Middle East policy and demonstrate good faith and asked the Security Council to take "unequivocal steps" to stop settlements in occupied territories.

The council on March 15 took up the issue of settlements in Israeli-occupied territories following Arab fears that new Soviet immigration policies could result in as many as 100,000 Jews reaching Israel in 1990. Another day of speeches and a resolution on the subject are expected next month.

The Soviet Union has assured Arab Nations it would not allow flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, was talking to the United States and other countries to see if more Jews could settle elsewhere and would in future permit the emigrants to return to the Soviet Union if they wished.

But it has said it would not stop the emigration.

In its speech Tuesday, Egypt, the only Arab Nation to have diplomatic ties with Israel, said the Israeli government should "adopt a constructive stand... compatible with the extremely sensitive and delicate stage of the peace process."

Mousa said every state had the right to allow individuals to leave or receive immigrants, but humanitarian laws could not be violated in the name of human rights.

"It is incontestable that the settlement of immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza district is an illegal act," he said.

Saudi Arabian Deputy Ambassador Mohammad Al Khatany said Israel "was too crowded with what is in it" and could not support the immigrants without moving them to the occupied territories.

He said the council should take measures to force Israeli authorities to comply with its international legal obligations and all states should apply "penalties" if Israel was in violation.

Ambassador Mohammad Abdul Aziz Salim of (North) Yemen compared Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to the leaders of the Cambodian Khmer Rouge, responsible for the death of millions in the 1970s.

"Should we condemn to death a child who throws rocks at an Israeli occupier," he said in reference to the 27-month uprising in the occupied territories. "Do Palestinians truly deserve the death penalty?"

DFLP to hold 'reform congress' this year

DAMASCUS (R) — The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) is to hold a "reform congress" this year to elect new leaders and work to make the PLO more responsive to change, the front's leader has said.

Nayef Hawatmeh denied in an interview with Reuters reports of a split within his Marxist DFLP pitting himself against his deputy Yasser Abed Rabbo.

"These reports are nonsense. The Central Committee unanimously reached political and organisational decisions and elected a new politburo in a democratic way during its Algiers meeting," he said.

PLO sources outside the front said in Tunis last month that Hawatmeh and Abed Rabbo were at odds over U.S. and Egyptian attempts to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

Abed Rabbo has headed the PLO team in talks with the United States and has followed policies close to those of the Fateh Movement of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

DFLP officials have repeatedly denied rumours of differences between the front's leader and his deputy over the past year.

Hawatmeh said the group's leadership had differed during the second half of 1988.

The Central Committee unanimously approved the Palestine National Council's decisions, especially the establishment of the state of Palestine and the Palestinian peace programme, he said.

Hawatmeh said the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and international developments had created new circumstances which required the development of the PLO's internal bodies.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

3 held in London over A-bomb triggers

LONDON (R) — Three people were arrested Wednesday at London's Heathrow Airport and an undisclosed number of others were detained over a suspected plot to smuggle nuclear weapons triggers to Iraq, British government sources said. The sources said the two men and a woman were connected with the Iraqi Airlines counter at the airport. They were arrested, in a joint Anglo-U.S. investigation, on suspicion of illegally exporting arms, which the sources defined as triggering equipment for nuclear weapons.

Turkey wants border talks with Greece

ANKARA (R) — Turkey asked Greece Wednesday for talks to end a row about a border river, calling the dispute "a storm in a teacup." "Turkey has asked Greece to allow the process of technical talks to function to solve this and other disputes on the Meric River," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sancar said. Athens accused Ankara Monday of trying to alter their border by building an embankment between the island and the Turkish mainland. It lodged an official protest. "This is an attempt to create a storm in a teacup. There are mixed border commissions for such disputes," Sancar said. The ministry summoned Greek Ambassador Dimitrios Macris Wednesday. It told him the problem arose from a fall in the water level during a drought and requested a technical meeting.

Iran executes two men for spying

NICOSIA (R) — Iran executed Wednesday two men accused of spying for Iraq, Iran News Agency IRNA said. It named the two as Abbas Razi and Ahmad Jangi Razi, but did not reveal their nationality. "The two were tried and sentenced to death by the Islamic Revolutionary Court ... in addition to espionage activities they were found guilty of collaborating with bandits and counter-revolutionaries," said IRNA, which is received in Cyprus.

U.S. Navy ship to pay port call to Aqaba

AMMAN (USIA) — The U.S. Navy Ship USS Simpson will pay a port call to Aqaba from March 29 to April 3, 1990. Ships of the U.S. Navy's Middle East Force regularly call at Aqaba as part of their programme visits to friendly states in the region. Past visits to Aqaba have been very much enjoyed by the ship's personnel. While in Aqaba, officers of the ship will pay calls on military and civilian officials and participate in social events with local residents. The ship's crew will participate in sporting events with Jordanian soldiers and visit Petra. The USS Simpson is an Oliver Hazard Perry Class frigate.

Israel allows Palestine agency to reopen

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel allowed the East Jerusalem Palestine Press Service (PSS), once a key source of news about the occupied territories, to reopen Wednesday two years after it was closed. "The office will resume its activities as soon as possible and will start providing news to journalists immediately," said Ibrahim Karaneh, co-owner and director of the PSS. In the March 1988 army closure order, the authorities accused the PSS owners of receiving funds from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to run the office in violation of law. They alleged the PSS was linked to the Syrian-based Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Korean
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:20 Religious programme
19:00 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local review
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:20 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:45 Tel. P. Tel. P. 15
18:50 La Chance aux chansons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 News in Arabic
20:40 A Different World
21:10 NBA Basketball
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: Movie of the week
"Moving Target"

PRAYER TIMES

06:06 Fajr
05:24 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:40 Dhuhr
15:11 'Asr
17:56 Maghrib
19:14 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swallow
Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751.
Assam International Church Tel. 827981, 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 854932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be warm and dry and winds will be light and moderate becoming southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 8 / 22
Aqaba 14 / 29
Deserts 6 / 25
Jordan Valley 11 / 27

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Sabah Tamouss 998903
Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710
Dr. Tawfiq Qab'iy 623029
Dr. Kayed Halseyah 793522
Firm pharmacy 61912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairook pharmacy 62672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yasoub pharmacy 644945
Shmuel pharmacy 637460

IRBID:
Dr. Abdel Hattmeh (-)
Dr. Al Sharaa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Khumis Al Ja'bari (-)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 92, 921111, 637771
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53300
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/52
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Khadija Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malinas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmuel 664174
Shmuel Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848645
Al-Musharraf Hospital 657279
The Islamic, Abdull 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdull 664164
Itana, Al-Musharraf 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674133
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)863323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)225535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722725
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:30 London (RJ)

16:30 Laranea (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 Baghdad (RJ)
17:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
19:45 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:20 Sams (LH)
09:40 Baghdad (LA)
10:20 Rome (LH)
10:30 Kuwait (KU)
10:40 Riyadh (SV)
10:50 Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
10:50 Damascus, Dubai (EK)
11:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
11:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
11:45 Cairo (RJ)
11:50 Rome (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:15 Cairo (RJ)
07:30 London (RJ)
07:45 Paris (RJ)
07:50 Laranea (RJ)
08:00 Cairo (RJ)
08:15 Baghdad (RJ)
08:30 New Delhi (RJ)
08:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
09:15 Jeddah (RJ)

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

10:00 Korean
10:15 Children programme
11:20 Religious programme
11:40 Friday's prayer
12:05 Sports programme
12:15 Religious seminar
12:40 Feature film
14:15 Message from Oman
15:10 Local programme
15:25 Local programme
15:40 Programme review
15:45 News in Arabic
16:00 Local programme
16:15 Arabic series
16:20 Local programme
16:30 News in Hebrew
16:45 News in Arabic
16:50 News summary in Arabic
17:00 Programme contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

17:40 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
17:45 French film
17:50 News in French
18:05 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:40 News in Arabic
19:50 Thirty Something
19:55 News in English
20:20 The Prehistoric Conspiracy

PRAYER TIMES

06:06 Fajr
05:23 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:39 Dhuhr
15:10 'Asr
17:57 Maghrib
19:14 'Isha

MARKET PRICES

Upstower price in \$/kg per kg.

Apple 450 / 460
Banana 450 / 460
Banana (Mukammal) 400 / 350
Beans 1400 / 800
Cabbage 80 / 40
Carrot 200 / 150
Cauliflower 250 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 250 / 200
Cucumbers (small) 400 / 420
Dates 480 / 440
Eggplant 320 / 220
Garlic 700 / 600
Grapefruit 250 / 200
Lemon 320 / 280
Lettuce (per one) 100 / 50
Marrow (large) 250 / 200
Marrow (small) 380 / 320
Onion (dry) 250 / 220
Onion (green) 200 / 150
Orange 320 / 280
Orange (Shamouti) 400 / 320
Pepper (hot) 1100 / 800
Pepper (sweet) 320 / 480
Potato 280 / 200
Raddish 150 / 100
Sage 400 / 350
Spinach 170 / 120
Tomatoes 350 / 300

Obeidat defends parliamentary process, exposure of corruption

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat Tuesday defended the development of parliamentary life in Jordan and criticised people who want to close files on past corruption.

"A campaign is being waged to raise doubts about some deputies in Parliament in order to belittle their achievements and to belittle the whole picture (of parliamentary life)," Obeidat told a gathering of leading officials and community leaders and young people at the Yarmouk Club in North Shouneh.

Obeidat said he was surprised by the shallowness of some of the debates in the House but "this does not justify the vicious campaign against Parliament."

The former prime minister said he resented people who have called for "burying the past with all its excesses, crimes and sins," and are reluctant to investigate corruption.

"I know that you agree with me that accusing people without evi-

dence is cowardly and irresponsible," he said. "But there is a great difference between forgiveness in relations and the suppression of people's rights, wasting public funds and abusing the law."

He stressed that Jordan's experiment with democracy should be protected by all institutions and citizens from saboteurs and possible failure.

In his lecture, Obeidat also discussed the unique relationship between Palestinians and Jordanians. "Jordanians and Palestinians should see the Palestinian identity as the anti-thesis of the Israeli identity and Jordanian national feelings as the shield protecting Jordan from expansionist designs," he said.

He lashed out at what he described "as sick elements trying to infiltrate into people's ranks under banners of Palestinian and Jordanian factionalism."

Obeidat, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, criticised people who insist on bring-



Ahmad Obeidat

ing old disputes.

"Since this de facto unity between Palestinians and Jordanians is impossible to dismantle, every effort should be made to protect and deepen this unity," he said.

Obeidat, who was prime minister from 1984-1985, said that even in 1970, "in the most difficult circumstances that Jordan passed through, national unity was uppermost in the minds of the people and was never a matter for political bargaining."

Drive for support of intifada highlights shared sentiments

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A national fund-raising campaign to support the Palestinian intifada was held Wednesday in all cities of the Kingdom.

Young women and men were seen in various parts of the capital collecting donations for Palestinian families in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as part of a national drive "to increase the interaction between Jordanians and the Palestinian uprising."

The fund raising campaign was the conclusion of a week-long activities and functions organised by the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada. According to the committee's president, Dr. Mamdouh Abadi, the committee has collected JD 3 million in donations since the start of the intifada, over two years ago. But Dr. Abadi, who is the president of the Jordanian Medical Association, said the fund-raising was not sufficient to fulfil the aims of the committee.

He explained that the money goes as a contribution from the Jordanian people to families of Palestinians injured and killed by the Israelis to enhance the steadfastness of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The committee gives JD 200 for the family of the wounded and JD 1000 for the family of each martyr.

"We can give this contribution only once. We have already paid JD 800,000 for the families of 800 martyrs and JD 1,600,000 for the families of 8,000 wounded Palestinians," he told the Jordan Times. "But we desperately need more; take for example Tuesday, March 27th, twenty Palestinians were injured and two were killed in the occupied territories. That means we need to raise JD 6,000 to meet the urgent need of helping them and their families," he explained.

Families of martyrs and the wounded come to Amman or deputise relatives to get the money from the committee. They need to bring official papers from the various cham-

bers of commerce in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to substantiate the applications and insure fair and legitimate distribution of help.

Abadi expressed hope that the current fund-raising campaign would boost the committee's work and increase the donations. He pointed out that donations in 1990 have increased but they were still far below the aspirations of the committee.

Although the fund-raising campaign is considered the most important function of the "national week of the intifada programme," the other activities included concerts of Palestinian liberation songs, exhibitions of Palestinian handicrafts, posters and photos of the intifada, panel discussions, rallies and poetry recitals.

The halls of the Professional Associations Complex — the main centre of the week's activities in Amman — echoed with Palestinian music, mostly intifada songs, while photos depicting Israeli suppression of the uprising and Palestinian resistance serve as a reminder of the hardships that the people are facing on a daily basis across the river.

"Although the intifada is taking place across the river and less than two hours away, we need to be confronted with the facts of the actual suffering and losses that the people are incurring," said an organiser.

"There was a time a year ago when you would not feel that there was enough interaction between peoples across the river; now things are changing," a young Jordanian, who did not miss any of the functions at the complex, commented.

According to the organisers, the turn out of the 40 activities across the country ranged between "good to excellent." The highlight of the programmes in all the governorates proved to be the musical concerts as five Palestinian and Jordanian musical and dancing troupes toured the governorates performing folkloric dances, sketches and revolutionary songs. The songs revolved mainly around the struggle of the Palestinian people and the songs of the intifada. The groups sang lyrics by promi-

ent Palestinian poets like Mahmoud Darwish, Samih Al Qassem and Taqwiq Ziad as well as lyrics recently inspired by the intifada.

The works of Ibrahim Nasrallah, a Jordanian-Palestinian poet, were prominent in the concerts which were attended by thousands across the country. Jordanian folkloric groups also took part in these concerts in a demonstration of Jordanian Palestinian unity. The enthusiastic audience joined in the singing especially that the lyrics of the intifada songs are very popular in Jordan.

Although similar activities were organised in Jordan since the beginning of the uprising, the large turn out and relaxed atmosphere which characterised the national week of the intifada are viewed as a direct result of the democratisation process.

According to members of the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada, which comprised a wide range of prominent Jordanian and Palestinian personalities, the political conditions which prevailed prior to the democratisation process limited the activities of the committee.

"There used to be official reservation about holding rallies and mass meetings for fear of instability and provoking political tensions, but now everybody can participate and fully express their feelings," one member said.

"I remember that when we used to collect donations people would insist that their names be kept secret, but now people are very enthusiastic to take part in everything," he added.

One of the major reasons which is widely cited as a factor which intimidated many people in the past is the tension and the way the former government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai handled Jordan's disengagement decision with the West Bank. "The negative tone which accompanied disengagement created an atmosphere of tension and sometimes hostility," a Jordanian politician said. "Any display of Palestinian identity, such as the wearing of the black and white checkered kaffiyeh



As the Palestinian intifada rages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is showing no sign of a let-up after 27 months, so does the patriotic sentiment in the East Bank to increase support for the revolt.

(headdress) or Palestinian posters or songs was seen by many official circles then as a provocation of friction between Jordanians and Palestinians," a Palestinian activist recalled.

But such tensions and possible misunderstandings seem to be fading away as both Jordanians and Jordanians of Palestinian origin take part actively in activities to support the intifada.

Two main factors viewed to have contributed to the removal or at least diminishing fears are the openness provided by the democratisation process and the improvement of relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Therefore, as seen by many organisers the activities in support of the intifada are also helping to promote national unity on many levels. "The activities are not confined to areas of Palestinian concentration but to all areas... we want to promote the interaction between Jordanians and the intifada," an organiser said.

"The least we could offer is to make the Palestinians across the river feel that they are not alone and that the intifada is not isolated," a Jordanian attending one of the activities said.

The solidarity week is not only fostering Jordanian-Palestinian national unity but also seems to be aiming at enhancing Palestinian national unity.

At one corner of the Professional Associations Complex, Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, displays publications, cards and other materials as well as its own posters displaying Hamas's role and influence. A small tape recorder is constantly playing Hamas songs, many of which are derived from Palestinian folklore and other revolutionary songs but with Islamic lyrics. Some of the material displayed promotes the Afghan Mujahideen and their struggle.

Islamist supporters of Hamas took part in all activities and observers noted that there was an effort on the part of the participating trends — which include Fatah, and the leftist Palestinian factions — not to fuel controversy or frictions.

"In general the week was a big success in terms of the wide participation of popular associations and groups and of the large turn out," Dr. Abadi said. "It was a manifestation of Jordanian-Palestinian national unity... a wedding in support of the intifada," he concluded.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King visits Armed Forces HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Wednesday visited the Armed Forces general command where he was received by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants, the Royal Air Force commander and the Inspector-General. His Majesty met with Abu Taleb and discussed with him matters of concern for the Armed Forces. The King was accompanied in the visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

King cables Nasser's family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to the family of the late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser condoling them on the death of Nasser's wife Tahiyah.

Prince Hamzeh celebrates birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met at Al Nadwa Palace Wednesday the commander and officers of Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein battalion who congratulated His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh on the occasion of his birthday. The battalion commander presented Prince Hamzeh with a token gift on the occasion.

Teachers demand union

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saleem Arar Wednesday received a request to establish a Jordanian Teachers' Association. The request was handed to Arar by the association's follow-up committee which asked the speaker to speed up the issue, and to present it during the Parliament's next session. The committee had previously submitted another copy of their request to Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan.

Jordan, Italy boost cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Italian Friendship Society held recently a reception at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental. The reception was attended by Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Curten, the Italian embassy's staff and members of the society. The Jordanian-Italian Friendship Society was established in 1980 to activate the cultural, artistic, commercial and touristic relations between Jordan and Italy, according to the society's chairman Abdul Rahman Al Bahri. He said that the society aims at encouraging holding exhibitions and cultural seminars in the two countries.

W. Germany to help Arab medical societies

AMMAN (Petra) — The West German Red Cross Society has agreed to continue its support for the Jordanian Red Crescent Society by supplying it with medical equipments. This was reached in the Arab-international technical committee meetings at the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross societies general secretariat which concluded in Tunis last Saturday. The West German Red Cross Society has previously provided the Jordanian Red Crescent Society with an emergency car to transfer patients from and to the occupied Arab territories and an X-ray device to be used at its hospital.

British liner docks at Aqaba

AQABA (J.T.) — A group of 1,738 tourists aboard a giant British ship arrived Wednesday in Aqaba. The captain of the ship, Philip Jackson, said it was the first time his ship visited Jordan. "The visit comes as part of a 90-day tour around the world," Jackson said. "Aqaba was chosen as part of our tour because of Jordan's good reputation, distinguished touristic situation, and the unique archaeological sites in it," said Jackson.

Mutton shipment arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A consignment of 40 tonnes of imported fresh mutton arrived in Amman from Bulgaria by plane at dawn Wednesday and was immediately distributed to the various centres in the country, according to Minister of Supply Nabil Abul Huda.

The minister said more shipments are on their way.

The meat will be coming from Bulgaria because Romanian workers refuse to lead planes with Romanian meat destined for Jordan, the minister said. Jordanian meat importers had agreements to import 80 tonnes of Romanian meat but because of the workers' action, the shipment was blocked, he said.

As of Saturday, Jordan will be receiving regular shipments of fresh meat from Turkey and Bulgaria to ensure sufficient amounts for the market, he said. The imported fresh meat, the minister said, will be sold at near cost price.

According to an agreement with local importers each head of imported slaughtered sheep will weigh between 12 and 18 kilograms, the minister added.

Jordan, Syria to boost tourism cooperation

By a Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Syria have agreed to take further measures to boost cooperation in tourism including joint touristic packages and the promotion of both countries as a single market. Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Kabariti said Wednesday.

Kabariti, who arrived Tuesday after a three-day official visit to Syria, told the Jordan Times that he signed a protocol with his Syrian counterpart Adnan Qouli on practical steps to "exploit the great potential for developing bilateral cooperation."

The protocol called for encouraging private and mixed sector companies in Jordan and Syria to meet regularly and establish touristic programmes for citizens in both countries.

Under the terms of the agreement, Syrian citizens would be

able to visit Jordanian health spas in Himmeh, Ma'een and the Dead Sea during winter. While Jordanian citizens visit the Syrian coast during summer.

According to the minutes of the protocol, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, the two sides agreed to organise visits by students of schools, colleges and universities in the two countries to visit historical sites during the low-season.

The Damascus accord of the joint Jordanian-Syrian subcommittees on tourism called for encouraging community societies to organise group visits to winter and summer resorts in the two countries.

The two sides also urged travel and tourism companies and agencies to coordinate and cooperate to setting up a joint touristic package selling both countries in export markets.

On the technical side, Amman and Damascus also agreed to set up a joint technical committee to design and produce touristic pamphlets on cities in both countries. They also agreed to set up a joint committee of Jordan and Syrian television specialists to produce a promotion film for the two countries.

The two sides also agreed to set up a joint committee comprising specialists in antiquities and museums in both countries to publish a book to promote antiquities in the two states, in addition to exchanging promotional and recreational products and holding joint tourism festivities in Arab and foreign countries.

The accord also covered coordination in administrative procedures and training as well as cooperation in developing traditional handicrafts and industries. A separate article in the agreement was dedicated to exchange-

ing regulations and legislation on tourism investment.

Kabariti said his talks in Damascus underlined the need for greater cooperation and coordination towards boosting the tourism sector in the two countries.

He noted that Syria acknowledged the growth in the volume of tourists between Jordan and Syria and attributed this growth to the easing of travel restrictions and border procedures between the two states. Part of the growth was also attributed to the revival of regular train rides carrying passengers between Damascus and Amman in addition to the increase in frequency of bus trips by Jordanian and Syrian companies.

He pointed out the growing interest among Syrian officials for widening cooperation with Egypt in the field of tourism in the wake of the restoration of ties between the two countries.



WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of plastic artists Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nebahneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shouman Foundation (10 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
- * Art exhibition entitled "Spanish contemporary engravings" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- * The spring exhibition of Beal Hamida women's weaving project at the Beal Hamida House - Jabal Amman, Rainbow Street.
- * Exhibition of paintings by Issam Tantawi at Alfa Art Gallery.
- * Exhibition of handicrafts and paintings at 'Al girls charitable society.

THEATRE

- * Arabic children's play entitled "Al Shaked" (the witness) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

FILM

- * Soviet film entitled "Rastom and Zharab" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

Refugee camp families threatened with eviction

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 70 residents of the Wahdat refugee camp in Amman are threatened with displacement following a court order. The decision was taken because homes had been built on lands claimed by other owners, according to the court.

The 70 persons are members of four families living in the camp who had built their modest homes after acquiring proper licence for construction from the concerned authorities.

"All the refugee camps in Jordan were set up on plots of land for which the government pays annual rent to the land owners according to an agreement reached between the two sides and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the 1950s," said Dr. Ahmad

Qatanani, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestine Affairs.

Commenting on the situation, Qatanani said it seems that the four families threatened with eviction had built their homes on land located on the fringes of the refugee camp at Wahdat not covered by the agreement with the government.

One of the families threatened said they had proper authorisation to build their home. "Authorisation was given after the finance minister had ruled that the land on which the houses were to be set up were to be appropriated," said Qatanani. He said that the foreign minister had approved of the construction work after considering the plot as

part of the land on which the refugee camp had been set up and for which the government was paying annual rent.

"But now as it turned out that the land is owned by a third party and since the land owners do not want the refugees to set up homes on their land, then the squatters have to leave in accordance with the court order," said Qatanani.

The refugees who are affected by the court order insist they did nothing illegal and say they have nowhere to go and no possibility to purchase land and build houses.

So far the squatters have not been evicted pending a court ruling on their problem while the land owners demand that the court order be carried out.

Lithuania

(Continued from page 1)

in parliament on Tuesday) for restraint on both sides," a Thatcher aide said.

The officials declined to comment on Gorbachev's response, but said there was "no dissatisfaction" on Thatcher's part.

In Rome, Lithuania's senior overseas envoy said Wednesday the situation in the republic had become calmer and President Vytautas Landsbergis was optimistic of a solution to the conflict with the Soviet Union.

Stasys Lazoraitis, envoy to Washington and the Vatican for the self-proclaimed independent republic said he had spoken to Landsbergis by telephone Wednesday.

"He was rather calm and relaxed," he said in a telephone interview.

He said Landsbergis had told him to ask the International Red Cross to send a representative to Lithuania to discover the fate of 38 army deserters rounded up by Soviet troops early Tuesday.

New communications system at Marriott

AMMAN (J.T.) — As part of its continuing efforts to keep up with the ever changing demands of the business world, and to upkeep the high standards of quality service that its customers are used to, the Amman Marriott Hotel has recently completed the process of installing a new communications system throughout the hotel.

This new installment includes a state of the art Northern Telecom telephone system offering the Marriott business guest network book up capabilities through computer modems.

The Marriott food and beverage system is now directly linked with the front office management system through special point of sale micros, a move that has increased the speed as well as the efficiency of service by computerising the entire hotel.

Part of the new system is a direct Reuter News Agency line to keep the Marriott traveller abreast of world news.

Almost completed for convenient and speedy check in and check out is a new video system which will enable the guest to complete the forms in a matter of minutes.

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

Jordan Times

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Breathing new life to Arab organisations

AS REGRETFUL as the decision of Kuwait to pull out of the aging Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) is, this verdict could serve as the very catalyst that may shake up not only the council but the entire Arab League system from their existing lethargy. In effect, what Kuwait is saying to the CAEU council and, by implication, to the rest of the Arab League family is to shape up or accept to wither away into oblivion.

That the entire Arab League system, including the CAEU, is archaic and urgently needs a thorough overhaul from top to bottom before it can ever hope to become relevant and effective is a foregone conclusion strongly held by many Arabs. In this vein, what is urgently called for is a complete restructuring and reorganising of the Arab League organisation and its auxiliary or specialised institutions on sound and cost-effective basis. To cite one living example: What possible rational reason could there be to justify Arab League representation in regional and international capitals when there are 28 odd Arab embassies in such capitals, fully and completely representing their respective governments, except to add to Arab bureaucracy and wasteful spending. This is a classic example of duplication of efforts and redundancy in deeds bordering on featherbedding.

The CAEU can best serve the Arab Nation by transforming its structure and mandate to one that may carry out the function of an Arab "clearing house" in economic affairs. As there are now three Arab regional councils working and functioning efficiently and productively, the CAEU can serve the needs of these living and operational regional structures as a clearing house with a view to achieving greater harmony among them in economic matters. The same would apply to the Arab League organisation itself and all the rest of the Arab League institutions. There is no way the Arab League system can continue to operate in isolation from the emerging realities in the Arab World. And the best way to go about realising this objective is to establish a joint Arab committee representing the three Arab regional organisations and to give it the specific mandate of examining ways and means necessary to realise this objective of serving these regional Arab bodies. Hopefully, after these reviews are conducted and finished with, a new Arab League structure would emerge which is cost-effective, relevant and vibrant. The Arab Nation can ill-afford obsolete systems or institutions as the time is now to breathe new life into existing Arab organisations.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Wednesday commented on the conclusion of the Lower House of Parliament's session by saying that Parliament, in cooperation with the government has succeeded in promoting the concept of democracy, and this was a great achievement for Jordan. The paper said that each and every session held by the House took the country one step closer towards democratic rule, and enhanced the democratic concept of the country's institutions. The people of Jordan, it noted, cannot help expressing their admiration and appreciation of Parliament and its achievements. The paper said that despite the attack launched by some of the deputies on the media and the threats of imposing penalties on the press for publishing the deliberations of the secret session, Parliament is still an important organ which can help the country march ahead with democracy. It said that there are many lessons to be learnt from all the debates and discussions ranging from the those that preceded the vote of confidence to the question of corruption and the implication of the media in this matter.

Al Dustour daily on Wednesday discussed the situation in Israel where the two major parties are trying to form a coalition, each according to its own fashion. Shimon Peres, the paper said, has a very slim chance of ever forming a government following the religious parties' announcement that they do not support his party. The paper said that a deadlock in the process of forming a government can lead to a deadlock in diplomatic effort for reaching peace in the Middle East, and would lead to a weak American stand with regard to this question. Indeed, the Israeli leaders are fond of complicating matters on the internal front because such situation can only help them avoid any direct pressure from any source to reach a lasting settlement with the Arabs, the paper noted. It said that the Israelis are hostile to peace and they do not want to withdraw from land in exchange for peace as demand by the Arabs; and so the current deadlock can best serve their interests. In fact, this present deadlock offers the Israeli leaders a chance to go ahead with plans to settle Jewish immigrants and to expand Israel's dominance over Arab lands, the paper added. What is more dangerous, it said, is that the Arab World is showing an impressive reaction to these developments and seems to be indifferent to the Israeli moves and strategies. The paper urged the Arabs to wake up from their oblivion and take proper steps to deal with the dangerous challenge.

Sawt Al Shabab daily wrote on the Jewish immigrants' issue criticising the Arab countries failing to deal with the issue in an appropriate manner. The paper said that no Arab consensus has been reached yet to deal with the ongoing immigration of Jews into Palestine and the Arab World has not yet realised that Peres and Shamir are two faces of the same coin and that Peres cannot bring peace to the Arabs. Israel is trying to deceive the Arabs with Peres, an former U.S. President Jimmy Carter had tried to deceive the Arabs that Begin was the man of peace in the Middle East, the paper noted. It said that even if the Israeli government was headed by an Arab deputy in Israel's parliament, the result will be the same as other governments in Israel.

Will Islam become the West's new enemy?

By Robert Olson

IF PATTERNS of current politics and diplomacy continue, it seems likely that in the 1990s we will witness a heightening of anti-Islamic policies on the part of the U.S., the USSR, Europe and Israel. On the part of Israel and the United States, this will be largely a continuation of policies in place since 1970. The diminished threat from the USSR in the Middle East has not, as yet, much influenced American or Israeli policies towards the Arab states. This suggests that it was not the threat of Soviet expansionism and/or Communism that were the policy priorities of the United States and Israel over the last two decades, but rather securing the supply of oil, support-

ing the status quo in the Arab countries and preserving the security of Israel and allowing its expansion.

These three policies were presented under the rhetoric of stopping Soviet expansionism and eliminating the growth of Communism in the Middle East. When the effectiveness of anti-Communism as a political and diplomatic weapon began to diminish in the 1980s, the policy of combating international terrorism was given an ancillary role to shore it up. These policies are still in place, despite the diminished power of the USSR and the diminishing threat of Communism spreading. Thus, in order to justify U.S. and Israeli policies, it seems probable that in the 1990s anti-Islamic rhetoric will be added to that of combatting

international terrorism. The big difference from the 1980s is that in the 1990s the USSR is likely to support this policy in an effort to elicit Western support for its harsh measures against the Muslims in the USSR.

We have already seen evidence of this, Gorbachev's speeches and policies towards the Muslim republics and towards Islam in general have been harsh. Military force has been used four times in the Muslim republics: Uzbekistan in 1986 and 1989; Azerbaijan in 1989-1990; and Tajikistan in 1990. Military force has been used only twice against non-Muslim peoples and not at all against the Baltic peoples despite the fact that their independence movements are much further advanced than

any of the nationalist movements in the Muslim republics.

There are undoubtedly many political and diplomatic reasons for the evolution of these events and policies, but the difference in Soviet policy towards the Baltic and Central Asian republics is striking. These policies smack of the bias and the racist attitude that have engendered Russian and Soviet policies towards the Muslim peoples both before and after these peoples were incorporated into the Russian and Soviet empires. The rise of Russian nationalism, the rejuvenation of the Russian Orthodox Church (both of which were anti-Islamic) and the need to retain the Muslim republics within the USSR will make it all the more necessary for the USSR to use

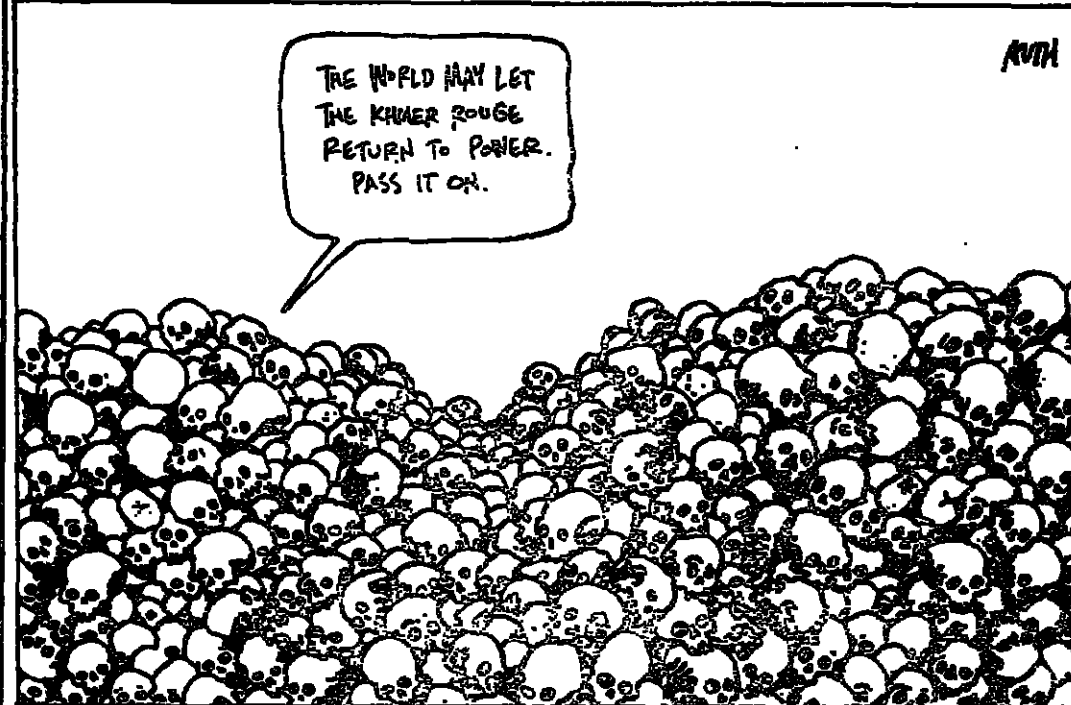
force to crush the nationalist movements and leadership in these republics. The USSR will also undoubtedly raise the "threat" of the nationalist movements in the Muslim republics as a bargaining tool to contain the independence movements in the Baltic countries and to restrain autonomy movements in the Ukraine, Byelorussia and elsewhere. The crushing of these nationalist forces under the guise of suppressing "violence", rooting out "fundamentalism", and eliminating "fanaticism", will probably be implemented with the acquiescence of the Europeans and the Americans.

The anti-Islamic feelings of Europeans, with 5-6 million Muslims now among them, the traditional anti-Islamic feelings of the West in general and the

pro-Israel feelings of Americans will mute their protest if the USSR feels bound to take harsh measures against its Muslim population.

The increased nationalism of the Muslim peoples within the USSR as well as among Muslims elsewhere in the world and the possibility that these people may gain access to even advanced weaponry opens the question of the feasibility, let alone the morality, of anti-Islamic policies by the USSR, the U.S., Europe and Israel. If they are pursued, bloodshed will result.

Dr. Robert Olson is a professor of Middle East and Islamic history at the University of Kentucky. His article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.



Phnom Penh gains confidence after battlefield victories

By Denis D. Gray
The Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — The Vietnam-backed government, having passed a crucial battlefield test, appears more entrenched domestically and may make fewer compromises in negotiations to end the country's 11-year-old civil war.

The avowed September pullout of Vietnam's forces left the untested and jittery Phnom Penh government facing a three-party guerrilla coalition that includes the powerful Khmer Rouge.

"Few nations now recognise Phnom Penh, but lower-level contacts have intensified. In recent months, Cambodia has hosted British and Australian officials as well as former U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, who called for changes in Washington's Indochina policy."

Initially, the Chinese-armed guerrillas made headway in northwest Cambodia. But as the monsoon season approaches, signaling a slowdown in fighting, the tide appears to have turned.

The Khmer Rouge has failed to take the northwest's major city, Battambang. The U.S.-backed Khmer Peoples National Liberation Front is suffering sharp setbacks, and troops loyal to overall coalition chief Prince Norodom Sihanouk have yet to make significant gains.

Although Vietnam's re-involvement is denied by Phnom Penh, the change of fortune appears at least in part to have been due to the return of some Vietnamese troops. This has not, however, detracted from the confidence evident among Cambodian government officials.

"I think they're feeling pretty good about themselves. They've surprised themselves," said one Western aid official who requested anonymity. "They're concerned about the future, but they think they have compromised as much as they will, and need to."

Knowledgeable diplomats caution about predictions for the volatile, tragic country. But they see one possible scenario with Phnom Penh trying, while coping with the civil war, to slowly improve economic conditions and deepen political control. Eventually, it would gain international recognition and aid.

Few nations now recognise Phnom Penh, but lower-level contacts have intensified. In re-

cent months, Cambodia has hosted British and Australian officials as well as former U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, who called for changes in Washington's Indochina policy.

Officials in the capital deny military successes will harden their stance at the conference table, saying the draining half war, half peace that exists is unacceptable.

"Look around you at this run-down country," said Fong Peng Cheng, a senior adviser to Prime Minister Hun Sen. "How can you have development when war remains the top priority, when 40 to 50 per cent of the budget goes to the military?"

To date, round after round of negotiations — in Paris, Jakarta and Bangkok — have failed despite a stack of peace plans and active participation by the world's major powers.

A major obstacle to peace is the future role of the Khmer Rouge, widely detested for its 1975-78 reign of terror when hundreds of thousands of people were killed. But non-Cambodian diplomats involved in the negotiations also say leaders of the warring parties, including Hun Sen and Sihanouk, are wary of making concessions that could dissipate the power they now wield.

Each leadership group, the diplomats say, is gauging whether it could win a free election or a tussle for power in Phnom Penh should some kind of political solution be reached.

The Hun Sen government would have major handicaps at the polls. It is Communist in a country which has suffered the most radical of Communist revolutions. It is tainted by growing corruption, which is admitted by officials and criticised with increasing vehemence by ordinary Cambodians.

On the positive side, the government follows liberal economic policies and last year allowed peasants to own plots of land. Recent rice harvest have been good, with Western aid sources estimating the country will face a 30,000-ton food deficit in 1990 — far less than in the earlier years.

Un Buntha, a vice director in the planning ministry, said that despite the continuing conflict, Cambodia's gross national product increased by an estimated nine per cent last year and further growth was anticipated.

But he admitted that the outside investment needed to revive Cambodia's shattered infrastructure was not forthcoming. "The foreigners are hesitating because they are afraid of the war and we

do not yet have regulations and guarantees for investors," he said in an interview.

"A major Phnom Penh asset may be its enemy. If it wasn't for the Khmer Rouge, this government would have a very hard time mobilising the people. But with them out there, they don't need much more," said an international aid agency official.

The war, however, exacts a hefty price which may move the government towards political compromise. Observers say the mass conscription of young men, the villages of widows and hospital full of children maimed by mines may stoke hatred for the Khmer Rouge and its allies but it also creates bitterness against the Phnom Penh side.

Romania after the revolution: Wounds are raw, freedom brings joy

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Nearly four months after the Romanian revolution, candles burn at memorials across Bucharest to the hundreds who died. But there is a new buzz in the city from people openly talking politics for the first time in nearly 45 years.

The downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu has changed the lives of Romanians in large and small ways: now there is some heat at night, more food, passports to travel, the right to demonstrate.

Crowds line up, sometimes for hours, to buy newspapers which they now say contain real news for the first time since World War II.

Cinema Marquises tout French and American movies. Hundreds of people crowd around a never-before-seen video being shown on a screen in a shop on Nicolae Bălcescu Boulevard.

Romanians joke about talking openly to foreigners, a crime under Ceausescu. Thousands have demonstrated for the first time and at every protest, knots of people stand for hours discussing politics. As one diplomat quipped, "Romanians are making up for 45 years of saying nothing."

Several thousand people waited in line for up to nine hours to register to buy an apartment for the enterprise for building and selling apartments, an opportunity unheard of under Ceausescu. "I never thought I could own property," said Magda Andromie, a 30-year-old electronics engineer. Who was hoping to buy a two-room apartment for 149,000 lei (\$8,000).

But for many like Dr. Dan Catana, a 36-year-old pediatrician, the joy at being free is tinged with sadness over the heavy price. As he spoke, his eyes darted from the balcony of

the Communist Party central committee headquarters, where Ceausescu fled Bucharest, to the candles and flowers on the pavement below burning for those who died in the revolution.

"Ceausescu, on this balcony said thousands and thousands of times that Communism makes people happy," he said, shaking his head. Then he paused, watching an elderly lady light a candle.

"This is our happiness — a very tragic happiness," he said slowly, as the candles flame danced alongside half a dozen others at the spot where several revolutionaries fell.

"People are free but not completely. We are, I think, at the middle of the way to democracy... but I'm not worried because I'm very convinced Communism cannot come back," he said.

Catana clutched the hand of his 9-year-old daughter and pointed up to the sign on top of the building. It once said long live Socialist Romania but the word Socialist had been ripped out.

The pediatrician said he was taking his daughter to all the sights of the revolution so she could understand the immense changes going on in Romania.

My daughter learned that Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu were the mother and father of the country. Now these people have gone from being the parents of the nation," he said. "Our history must be changed since the war."

At the square, Catana showed his daughter the shell-pocked and burned-out buildings, some now surrounded by scaffolding: the art museum, the national library, and a blackened building once used by Ceausescu's hated Securitate secret police who fought against the army and the people even after the dictator's execution.

At the television station, the most hotly contested building during the revolution, about 1.6

kilometres away, tanks still stand guard.

The surrounding area is studied with burned-out apartment buildings, where Securitate snipers holed up. Only a few showed signs of rebuilding.

Boris Aurel Cosma, a 41-year-old engineer, said the biggest change since the revolution was psychological, "the lifting of the darkness that Communism brought to everyday life."

"We're not thinking immediately of having mountains of products and food," he said. "We're just thinking: 'We're free.'"

Kiosks now sell chocolate bars, which disappeared from shops in the last years of Ceausescu's rule, but meat and milk are still luxuries.

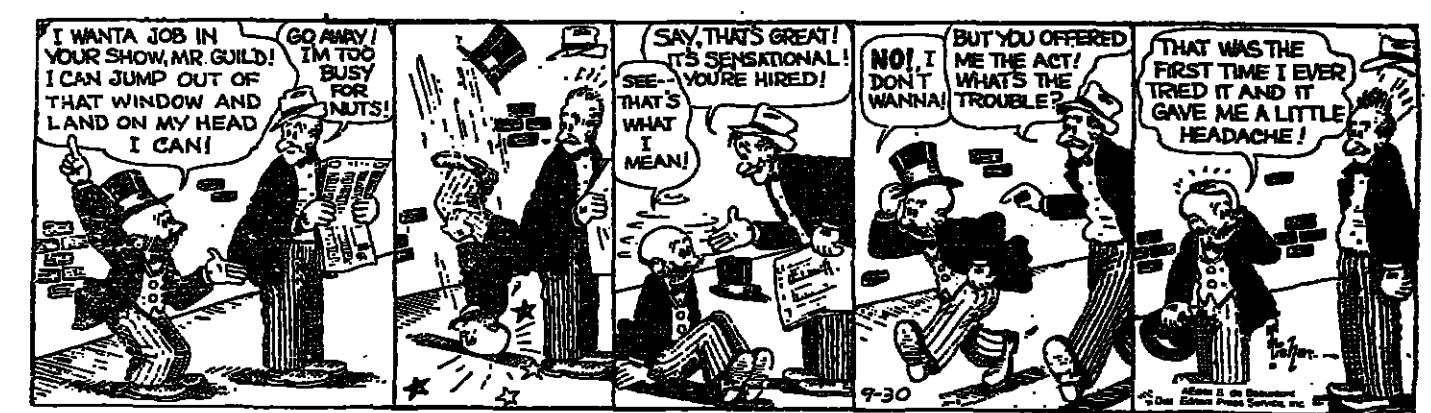
Electricity prices have gone down and there is even hot water for an hour or two a day. But shops and homes are still cold and badly lit, and shoppers must trudge up and down department store escalators that have been turned off.

At Hanel Mamuc, originally a caravanserai and now one of Bucharest's most famous establishments, there was no menu in the restaurant — because just one dish was available. Most diners ate with their hats and coats on, to keep warm.

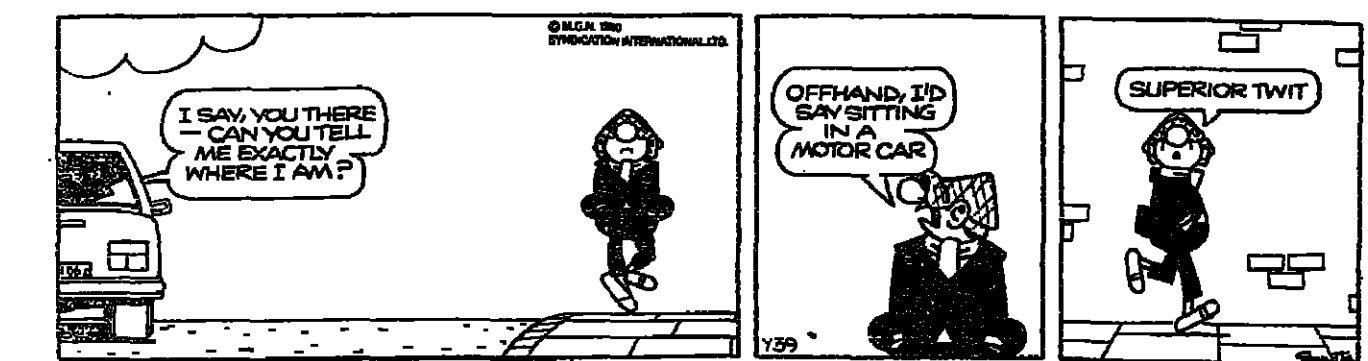
More than a half hour after an order was placed for the main course of fried cheese balls, fried pork and fatty sausage, the waiter came to apologise. It will be another 10 minutes, but we have a gas shortage and it takes longer to cook, he said.

The revolution has also spawned some less-than-desirable breeds of Western street life: money changers, beggars, and prostitutes. One of their favourite haunts is the Intercontinental Hotel, where the words Down With Communism are scrawled on a wall in large red letters.

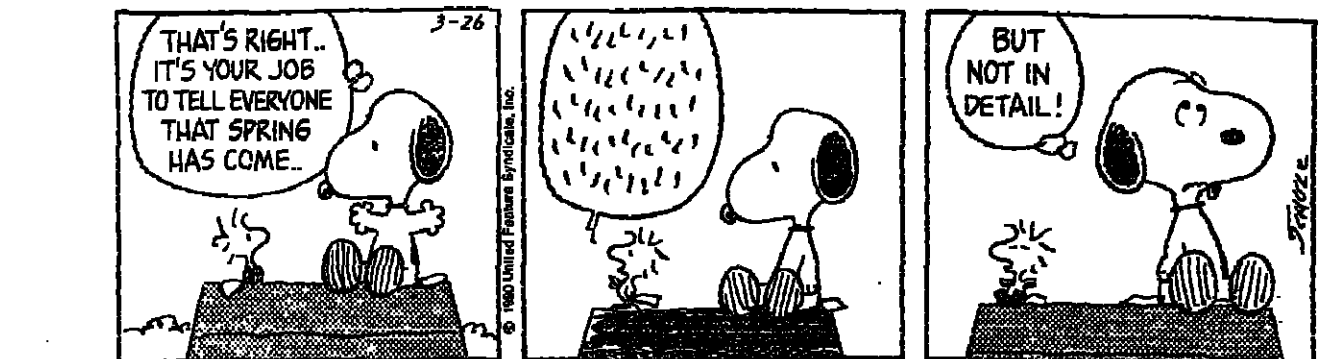
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

March 28, 1990 A

Writers Association president, Abdul Rahim Omar, outlines the goals of the literary movement in Jordan

Jordan needs a new outlook on the importance of 'culture and the cultured'

An overwhelming oak desk takes up much of the room. The man transmits an aura of wisdom carried with a non-intimidating flair for criticism.

The words flow with strength but are meliorated with a kind smile, a knowing glance and a relaxed posture. The atmosphere is hushed with cramped used books, perhaps read by the writer, while listening to the rhythms of classical music, another pastime treasured by the man who now holds the position of president of the Jordan Writers Association.

His message to the Jordan Times WEEKENDER was simple but it gave hope to the orchestrators of this experiment. "Perhaps through you we will be taking the first step towards our goal," Abdul Rahim Omar said.

By Narmeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

LITERATURE is not only interwoven words that form a beautiful picture, it is a whole movement that depicts a culture and its people. For Jordanian writers and poets, the message has gone out and touched most Arab countries, but it has not yet gained the respect and recognition it deserves locally.

In a recent survey conducted by Jordan Television with university students, results indicated that most university students could not name one Jordanian poet. To the president of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA), Abdul Rahim Omar, these results indicate that "there are dangerous loopholes in our educational and information systems."

In an interview with Jordan Times WEEKENDER, Omar, who is also a renowned Jordanian poet and daily columnist at Al Rai newspaper, discussed the hurdles facing the development of the Jordanian literary movement

as well as the needed measures, in his opinion, to build bridges between the writer or poet and the people.

While Omar believes that the Jordanian literary movement is active and "very much around" in the Arab and international arenas he concedes that "the image of our movement is a lot brighter outside."

The question that immediately comes to mind is why? While Jordanians claim one of the highest percentages of literacy in the Arab World, the ability to read and write does not seem to develop into the deeper uses of these abilities, constructive reading and cultural awareness.

"Education is not receiving the priority it receives in other Arab countries," Omar maintains, pointing a finger at the Ministries of Culture and Information as the main culprits in what he describes as their "lack of proper concern" for developing cultural education.

"Ninety per cent of those working at the Ministry of Cul-



Abdul Rahim Omar

ture do not come from the literary circles," Omar cited as an example of non-professionalism in dealing with the concept of literary development in the Kingdom.

He points out that specialised literary writing is non-existent in Jordan because this type of journalism "is usually supported by the official body concerned. This is not done here."

These facts, to Omar, are obviously in contradiction with the high level of unemployment among "the liter-

ate" in Jordan.

For while the "professionals are going to waste," the not-so-professionals are running the show. "They do not want to even make use of the talents and abilities that are going to waste. This is difficult to understand, especially that these establishments (cultural and media channels) are criticised because they lack professionals."

The Ministry of Information and its various "official" channels did not escape the criticism of Omar who also

believes that the media is not even remotely connected to literary development.

"The literary sections in the different media are very weak and unable to take a much needed initiative to develop literary education," Omar maintains, to him, the whole literary education process is just like any other developing business which requires undivided attention, patience and dedication "as it produces even more important results to the whole nation."

"If agricultural work aims at producing excellent crops and industrial work aims at creating new industries, then the aim of literary work is to create good humans."

"No-one can doubt the priority that should be given to this aim over others," he stresses.

Although critical, Omar is full of optimism over the future of the literary movement in Jordan and within the realm of his dissatisfaction lies several rays of hope for development, all sparked by democracy.

"It was obvious that the circle most affected by the absence of democracy was the literary circle. We were target for the most uncivilised measures. Perhaps the closing down of the Jordan Writers Association (JWA) is the best example of these measures," said Omar, who was member of the Executive Committee of the JWA when it was forced closed by a defence law decision in July 1987.

He did not want to get into the details of what he described as "oppressive measures against the literary fi-

gures," satisfying himself by saying: "I do not want to mention the tens of writers and poets who had their passports confiscated and were expelled from their jobs becoming excellent candidates for poverty."

Omar believes that the onset of democratisation in the Kingdom adds hope to the development of Jordanian literature but he expresses hope that dealing with the cultural and literary movements will take a turn to the better.

What he believes is needed now is a completely new outlook on the importance of "culture and the cultured," built on the conviction that cultural work is important for the citizen "just as important to him or her as health."

To Omar, the literary and cultural movement will create a human with national commitment to the morals and traditions of the society "able to function in a developing society. Not hindered by backwardness."

For him, the movement will highlight the political message of the nation through providing the citizen with the necessary education variety needed to "enlighten the world around him and enable him to communicate with that world."

The word "democracy" has yet to expand in the minds of the people as well as the officials to include the cultural and social right to know and to apply that knowledge, Omar maintains. "But the mission is difficult, the road is long, and the goal is sacred," he says.

Nasheed Al Hajar

A quest for freedom

FILM REVIEW

The Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada is screening "Nasheed Al Hajar" (The Ballad of the Stone), written and directed by Palestinian-born Michel Khleifi, at the Philadelphia Cinema on April 1 to raise funds for the Palestinian uprising. (Khleifi will also be present at the premiere that night). Produced in 1989, the film gives a beautiful depiction of the reality of life under Israeli occupation in both Jerusalem and Gaza. Premiere tickets cost a minimum of JD 25, but audiences may pay as much as they want. The film has never been screened before a public audience, but the Jordan Times WEEKENDER had the chance to see a sneak preview of "Nasheed." Sana Atiyeh previews the film:

IT COULD be said that "Nasheed Al Hajar" is the first comprehensive drama-documentary film about the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising, which erupted in Gaza in December 1987 and spread throughout the occupied territories.

Michel Khleifi appears to have a passion for Palestine and the cause of the Palestinians; all his films are about the usurpation of the Arab land by Israel. The Intifada has perhaps given Khleifi his biggest inspiration to create a film that somewhat romanticises and beautifies the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; but at the same time it also makes the reality of the Israeli brutality hit the audience hard in the face.

Nasheed is Khleifi's fifth film and hopes are high that he will gain a prize at the Cannes Film Festival this year. His first film, Images of Faded Memories, gained him fame, bringing him the Best First Film Award at the Carthage Film Festival in Tunisia.

He is also renowned for his drama film, The Wedding in Galilee, though it was more popular in the West than in the Arab World because of its controversial love scenes.

At a sneak preview of Nasheed at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation last week, the audience of six left the screening hall with a feeling of longing and desire to return to that land that was usurped from its original Arab owners so long ago.

The woman in Nasheed returns to Palestine after having left it 15 years before to "understand what is happening here" and to know the meaning of "sacrifice."

"What is sacrifice? Here there is no sacrifice; there is occupation," says the man.

One gets the impression that the woman character may actually be Khleifi, who returns to the occupied territories to make his film — although this was not his first time back in the homeland since he left it.

The two characters in the film, whose names never emerge, have their own private stories about their lives in Palestine. A good part of the two-hour movie is a

dramatised dialogue between the couple who meets after so many years; the rest is a documentary candidly showing the dignified suffering of Palestinians under occupation running parallel to the dialogue.

Though the Palestinian actors, Bushra Karaman and Makram Khouri, speak in classical Arabic, somewhat poetical, they are very convincing. And the documentary part gives their whole story credibility — not only to their dialogue but to the strikingly harsh reality of the Intifada.

One thing about Nasheed that will satisfy the audience is that it does not attempt to underestimate the intelligence and imagination of the audience.

We are used to hearing and seeing rhetorical slogans when it comes to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. But the truth of the occupation and the uprising in Nasheed is conveyed so naturally and so discretely that it gives more credibility to the facts of the uprising and respects the intelligence of the audience.

The appearance every once in a while of a little girl swinging on the door with an innocently aware expression on her face is convincing enough of the harsh reality of the Intifada and of life under Israeli oppression and occupation...

... the small boys playing with the round plastic bullets as if they were playing with marbles...

... the children climbing on the walls around the refugee camps...

... the kid looking out of the iron-barred window...



Children of the stones keep the Intifada alive

... or the camera moving into the corridors and rooms of the Palestinian hospitals...

Khleifi's attempt to mix drama with documentary has been a big success. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the dialogue between the couple is full of significance to a Palestinian: Be it a Palestinian in the diaspora or a Palestinian still living on his or her land, but under the Israeli occupation. One can say, however, that the audience has to concentrate a great deal of the dialogue to understand its metaphors and poetic sentences to connect them with the reality of the Intifada.

Even when Khleifi is out talking to the Palestinians, both in Jerusalem and Gaza where the film was made, his voice asking a question (and only one question comes out from him), seems to fit so well within the context of the

whole theme of Nasheed. There is a nice juxtaposition between the sophisticated, intellectual couple and their story as well as the stories that are told by the simple Palestinians in their simple struggle (with the stone) against the Israeli occupation; for the goal is one — the desire for freedom and liberation from oppression. And in reality, literally every Palestinian in the occupied territories has a story to tell of the Israeli oppression and the Intifada.

The charm of the film goes beyond just stories to be told. The camera does a wonderful job of showing the natural beauty of Palestine — the fertile land, the sea, the hills, the rooftops of Jerusalem, the walls of the old houses etc.

The folklore is also heavily involved, much of it being political, naturally. When one

wounded youth leaves the hospital to go back home, it is like a wedding, with his mother in the long, black Palestinian embroidered "thob" and her relatives and friends yoddlle joyfully for the safe return of her son. And the youth and children sing Palestinian revolutionary songs in Palestinian village dialect.

Every so often, the Jerusalem-based Palestinian group, called Sabreen (We Are Patient) is filmed rehearsing their songs, giving a picture of rising Palestinian culture and talent, using the traditional Arabic instruments.

Nasheed Al Hajar is a film definitely worth seeing, to say the least, and many believe it will offer a clear picture of Palestine under occupation. And the Intifada not only to Arabs, but to the World at large.

Diary

By Narmeen Murad

RECENTLY, a high level delegation from a big Asian country visited Jordan and met with high-ranking officials. The visit was billed as highly successful. But there was an unreported funny event. During one of the meetings the head of the visiting delegation highlighted his country's high regard for his host country "Iraq." The senior official expressed his pleasure at the beauty of the "kingdom's" capital "Baghdad". In a different meeting, the same official emphasised how his country was looking forward to receiving an "Iraqian" delegation in return for his visit here. A Jordanian official, commenting on the gaffe, said he felt an urge to do unto the guest what the guest had done unto himself, but then Jordanian manners of hospitality carried the day, and the official abstained from shooting at the guest. There only was hope that the visitor would make it back home safely, and not forget where he originally came from.

A FOREIGN Ministry senior official, who insisted on anonymity, criticised his own ministry for not allocating funds where they are needed most. According to the official, "an important embassy in a Communist country is lacking in some essential resources required for the upkeep of an even modest Jordanian mission abroad." There are "no news agency tickers, not even one, no Jordanian newspapers received from home, no information officers, not enough staff or anything else," he says. The official, who recently held a position in a "much less important capital," maintains that the budget of his old embassy "was four times the budget of the new one." Will anybody listen to him?!

THE MINISTER of information has strengthened his contacts with reporters and has established a weekly channel of communication to respond to their queries every Wednesday. Reporters have the opportunity to ask any questions even if they are touchy. The minister usually answers those questions honestly and forthrightly, providing much needed background for many stories. But background is all a reporter can get. Please read on.

DEMOCRACY in Jordan has shown us the positive and negative elements in our analysis of what the phenomena entails. The best statement that follows any "democratic step" always indicates that "people from all walks of life and political ideologies were represented" as the "democratic" decisions were being adopted. It must sound wonderful to all of us democracy-thirsty people in Jordan. But according to some of our media experts, "all political ideologies," should not be represented on the National Guidance Committee, which has been reconstituted recently to advise the minister of information on media policy in the Kingdom. Those media experts believe that Third World media policies should be guided by a panel of "media" experts rather than by representatives of "all political ideologies." Ideologies do not know the first thing about how "undercurrent psychological media messages" work, the experts maintain. As one of them defines it, the leftists like to have each sentence laced with their usual phrase of "our friend the Soviet Union wants so and so." While the centrists want the television announcer to sit in the middle of the screen and remain "objective" in all the reports, thereby "cutting those extreme right or left edges in order to end up with the bland lacking-in-opinion report." As to the third category, the experts say: "Our right-wing political ideologies cannot accept hidden messages of traditional Arab and Islamic morality. They want Mickey Mouse to stop kissing Minny Mouse right now."

A COMMITTEE to draft the proposed national charter to govern political life in Jordan is expected to be announced soon. Four months ago, high-level Jordanian officials promised that the committee would be formed soon. Soon after that they reiterated their belief that it would be formed soon. And much later, only two weeks ago, it was still going to be soon. However, other high-level sources from a different department placed a deadline on the announcement of the committee, and it seems it is really going to be soon. The only sure "fact" about this committee is that it will include almost no members from the executive committee to "convince the people that the proposed charter is not adversarial to their interests, and that it will be a manifesto to the people by the people." This fact will probably be announced soon.

INFORMED sources at the Royal Jordanian Airlines say that Ala's pilots plan to establish an RJ pilots' union, but that their plan "will not see the sun." According to one of the sources, pilots with this "bright idea" contacted their boss and were later faced with a "barrage of executive words talking them out of it." Another source, however, maintains that the pilots are still far from discouraged, and that they will continue their attempts to form the union. What ever happened to the pilots' "eagle club?" some people ask. "Isn't it a form of union house for the pilots?"

THE JORDAN Times had enjoyed, and will continue to enjoy, a column by a friend and a colleague: "Talking Straight," by Marwan Muasher. Well, our friend Marwan has talked his way straight to the top scoring a double victory in his professional and personal life. Not only was he appointed Director of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington D.C., heavens have also decided to expand the Muashers' influence in the U.S. capital by increasing their number to three. The baby is expected in the fall. Good luck to Marwan and Lynne. "We're gonna miss you."

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Let the people know the truth and the country is safe.

Abraham Lincoln

JTV CHANNEL 2 PREVIEW

Thursday, March 29

8.30 A Different World
The thin line dividing fantasy from real life.

9.10 NBA Basketball.

10.00 News in English
10.20 Movie of the week
Moving Target

Starring:
Jason Bateman
Tom Skerritt

One day seventeen year old Toby Kellogg reluctantly leaves home for summer camp. His dislike for the outdoors leaves him with only one desperate thought: Escape. He makes a clean getaway only to come back to a barren house. Everyone and everything is gone without a trace.

Friday, March 30

8.30 Coach
Hegan's relentless efforts to win... fizzle out.

9.10 Thirty something — Best of Enemies.

Susanah is having trouble with her pregnancy, and Gary insists she stay home from the office at the Centre where they work. He is beginning to face the new responsibilities of having a family. Meanwhile, Hope plans an article for the local paper featuring community assistance for the needy.

10.00 News in English.

10.20 Fremantle Conspiracy.
(Last Ep.)

The struggle to free his fellow friends, the Fenians, from prison still drives O'Reilly. He will have no peace with himself until his mission is fulfilled.

Saturday, March 31

8.30 Surgical Spirit
A comedy series in 13 half-hour parts.

Sheila Sabatini has a problem. She is a consultant



The defiant ones: A feature film to be shown on JTV Channel 2 Saturday, March 31, at 10:20.

surgeon in a male-dominated specialty in a large general hospital. She has just split up with her husband and her 16-year-old son is getting up to heaven knows what on a college trip to Paris.

9.00 Encounter

9.30 Classical Music.

10.00 News in English

10.20 Feature Film
The Defiant Ones.

Two prisoners, handcuffed together, escape from prison and are pursued by the police.

Sunday, April 1

8.30 Who's The Boss
Steady as She Goes

Teenager's troubles and... growing pains.

The World of Puppetry

A witty and wonderful Au-

stralian puppeteer, Richard Bradshaw is best known for his inventive and hilarious shadow puppetry. Much of his work is original and modern, but he also presents many old classics, often with a new twist. Videotaped at the Marionette Theatre of Australia in Sydney in co-production with the ABC Television and directed by Jim Henson.

10.00 News in English

10.20 Agatha Christie's Poirot

David Suchet is the star of a sumptuous film series featuring cases culled from the files of one of the world's greatest fictional detectives. Set in 1935, often in the glamorous and wealthy world of the British aristocracy, Agatha Christie's famed Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot sets his "little grey cells" to work on a series of gripping and baffling murder mysteries.

Monday, April 2

8.30 Empty Nest
A challenge between Barbara and her sister Carol.

9.10 Tusitala (Ep. 3)

The continuing story of Tusitala... Matti designs her dream house. Louis furnishes the huge palace and meets Matana, leader of the rebels.

10.00 News in English

10.20 FIFA Soccer.

Wednesday, April 4
8.30 Laura and Disorder

Laura finds herself in the midst of troubles when she discovers a valuable painting among the contents of the switched handbag, but she is even in more trouble when she loses the painting and the robbers are after her.

9.10 A Horseman Riding By
Valley For Sale.

A story of ambition and finance.

10.00 News in English.

10.20 Cuts And Glory
The Rise and Fall of Oliver North

(Part two)
Congress had banned giving aid to the Contras and Oliver North is determined to come up with the needed funds, no matter what! He strikes a deal with Iran, holding American hostages.

8.30 Charles In Charge

9.10 Documentary: Connections.
Distant Voices

An excellent documentary which analyses wars and presents the story of gun powder. The Arabs took it from the Chinese and the West took it from the Arabs.

10.00 News in English.

10.20 "In the Heat of the Night"

HAMZEH, is an "old" friend of mine. He will be seven on Aug. 18. I know Hamzeh since the day he was born, and since then we grew on each other. Hamzeh's father Noman and his mother Wafika are very dear friends of mine; they are my family. They both work in an air traffic control. They live in Al Rashid district behind the University of Jordan. Hamzeh is a first grader at Al Manhal school. His school day ends at 12:30 and he spends the time from 13:00 till 14:30 — when his father picks him up — with me at the Jordan Times. Everyone at the press room is fond of Hamzeh. He is, however, a bit shy.

On Thursdays, holidays for both of us, we normally spend the time together. We walk and talk. He asks me lots of questions such as: "Why are all taxis yellow? Some are more difficult — 'What does God look like?' he insists on travelling by bus; apparently it gives him a better view of the road and what goes on on the sides of the road. One of his fantasies is to travel to the U.S. to buy a motorcycle. He describes with movements and noise how he would handle his motorcycle. He loves speed. When he is with his father in their car he always watches speed limits and urges his father to speed. He is always in constant fight with his four-year-old sister Israa. However, he shows tenderness and sympathy with her when she,



Hamzeh in not-so-deep waters

for one reason or another, starts to cry.

Last week, there was a panic over Hamzeh at the newspaper. It was a routine day. Hamzeh came to the newspaper as usual after school waiting for his father to pick him up. I had to leave for a meeting and I told him to stay at the newspaper and await his father. I

asked my colleagues to keep an eye on him. When I returned to the newspaper at around 16:00, Arq Voskian — the editor of the weekend — asked me if I knew where Hamzeh was. His school bag, coat and other belongings were on the armchair next to my desk. So I thought Hamzeh must be around and started

looking for him all over the place, but to no avail. I went into every office, every floor of the building, around the building, on the roof. I thought his father must have picked him up, so I went home, but nobody was there. Everyone at the newspaper was already involved in looking for Hamzeh. Someone even tried cupboards and filing cabinets.

Everyone was frantically running around, editors, reporters, office boys, administrative staff, almost everybody. We checked with neighbours, supermarkets; we called the police, hospitals; we even asked the mosque muazzen to announce it over the mosque's loudspeakers. I had, meanwhile, resigned myself to a comforting thought that his father must have picked him up without taking his bag, coat and other belongings. But his father showed up soon afterwards. And soon his parents were in the chase and anxiety. Well, to cut a long story short, it turned out that Hamzeh, sensing his father was late and wanting not to miss his afternoon play with his mates, sneaked out of the newspaper, walked down to the trafficlights nearby, crossed towards Al Rawda Housing Complex and from there walked a distance of about four kilometres in the cold to the neighbour's home. He sure was playing ball with his friends when we found him.

Abdullah Hasanat

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, March 29

1792 — Sweden's King Gustavus III is assassinated.

1801 — Britain seizes Danish and Swedish islands in West Indies.

1830 — Spain's King Ferdinand VII passes law allowing females to be heirs to throne.

1849 — Britain annexes Punjab in India by treaty with Maharajah of Lahore.

1864 — Ionian Islands are ceded by Britain to Greece.

1946 — New constitution in Gold Coast, which becomes first British African colony with majority of Africans in legislature.

1947 — National revolt against France in Madagascar begins.

1951 — Chinese government rejects U.S. offer for truce discussions in Korea.

1967 — France launches its first nuclear submarine.

1972 — Government of Bolivia orders 119 members of Soviet embassy staff to leave country — accusing embassy of financing leftist rebel movements.

1973 — Last American troops leave South Vietnam, ending direct military role of United States in Vietnam war.

1977 — U.S. and Soviet negotiators, meeting in Moscow, agree to set up commit-

tees to seek solutions to several arms control and diplomatic problems.

1988 — Bomb planted in jeep kills at least four Soviets in Kabul, Afghanistan.

1989 — Two Czechoslovak teenagers hijack Hungarian airliner from Prague to Frankfurt in attempt to reach United States.

1843 — Denmark incorporates Schleswig. Poland is divided into provinces by Russia.

1885 — Russian occupation of Penjdeh, Afghanistan, provokes crisis in Anglo-Russian relations.

1905 — Greeks in Crete revolt against Turkish rule.

1912 — Sultan of Morocco signs treaty making Morocco a French protectorate.

1933 — James B.M. Herzog forms national coalition in South Africa and is joined by Jan C. Smuts.

1940 — Japan establishes puppet government in occupied China.

1967 — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) formally closes its military headquarters in France.

1974 — Chinese jetliner arrives in New York in what is described as first civilian flight from Chinese mainland to United States.

1976 — Palestinians declare Land Day after Israel confiscated 21,000 dunums of Arab land in the Galilee. Six Palestinian martyrs in occupied Palestine (1948) died, 49 were injured and 300 were arrested on that day.

1988 — Sikh militants kill 15 people on overnight attacks in northern Indian state of Punjab.

1989 — Rebel inmates agree to end five-day mutiny in Guatemala's largest prison.

1699 — British Admiral Benbow is sent to West Indies to gain reparations from Spain for destruction of British ships at Darien.

1801 — British fleet under Horatio Nelson is sent to Denmark because of Danish action on Elbe River and is victorious off Copenhagen.

1903 — Britain and France refuse to support construction of Baghdad railway.

1917 — U.S. President Woodrow Wilson summons special session of Congress to declare war upon Germany.

1937 — South Africa prohibits political activity by foreigners in South-West Africa.

1947 — U.N. Security Council appoints U.S. as trustee for Pacific Islands formerly under Japanese mandate; Britain refers Palestine question to United Nations.

1964 — Yemen charges Britain with air attacks on its territory.

1986 — Terrorist bomb rips hole in TWA jetliner over southern Greece, and blast blows a man, woman and child out of the plane to their deaths.

1988 — Iraq reports its forces killed thousands of Iranian troops and overran bases of Kurdish rebels in mountainous northeast.

1989 — Police say more than 50 guerrillas are killed in new round of battles in northern Namibia.

The Associated Press

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkisson

EVERY WHICH WAY

By Olive Daux

ACROSS
1 Web-footed bird
6 Communications
10 Bark cloth
14 Ring weapon
18 Explodes
19 Where Anna met the king
20 Special exams
22 Dilly
24 Averse of
25 Domain
26 James of song
27 Commotion
28 SECURE
31 Precious
32 Exhibit
34 Supplement
35 Hunker
37 Suitable for taming

DOWN
1 Tilt
2 Church calendar
3 Dash
4 Engrooves
5 Traz
6 In union
7 Arranged in a row
8 Femme —
9 Biblical prophet
10 Cod
11 Rocky ridge
12 Canon's predecessor
13 Alarms
14 Adversary
15 LOADED
16 Kind of sleeve
17 Menu cards
21 Defame
25 NWOL
26 College cheers

Diagramless 19 X 19 By Martin J. DeWitt

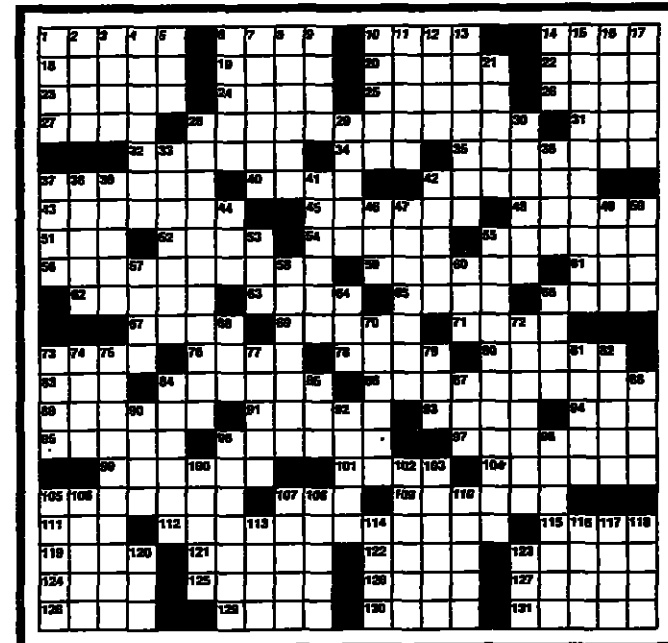
ACROSS
1 Make eyes at
6 Follows secretly
8 Con
12 Thorough search
14 Tips
16 Even if for short
17 Comp. dir.
18 Cup handle
20 Dispatch boat
21 Plant
23 Glimp

DOWN
1 Home buyer's angel?
2 Big pond
3 The — of March
4 Was borne
5 Pair
6 Coused sparks to fly
7 Pullovers
8 When I was — (Gilbert)
9 At no time
10 Suit maker

40 Movie part
43 Mosaic place
45 Pats out of business
48 The Merry Widow
51 Bung
52 Lineman: abbr.
54 — as a beef
56 Last syllable of a word
58 UNDECEDED
59 Hamonluna
61 Bodun
62 Onshore
63 Portal
65 Tear apart
68 Hey, you!
69 Hawaiian island
69 Five: pret.

30 Fishes for base
31 "Mounting"
32 Becomes —
36 Watch one's weight
37 Alcuttan island
38 Acquires
39 Gellan salad
41 Card game for two
42 Boundary
43 Land measure
44 "y" plus
47 Shovelhead of CA
49 Brigitte's friends
50 Blow one's top
53 Will
55 SUSPECT
58 Father of Atlas
60 Some

24 Gave thought to
27 Heads
28 Writer Sarling
29 Tranquil
30 Topid
31 Delta the singer
32 Miseries
33 Loser to DOE
36 Change for a five
37 Gales
40 Lathery



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Some ham TV tragedy finally became widely successful TV comedy when voice technician cracked in a laugh track.
2. Keeping calm in the face of trouble may look good, but it hardly helps the situation.
3. Gratifying your stomach is the dramatic aim of much TV advertising.
4. Gigantic barracuda spotted school of tempting bluefish for a possible meal.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. SU HA, SMA WAXISKA KT UWA UP SMA
XCRVATS UP OVV SMA KWTSCHAWST UP
SUCSRCA HOWIKWB ALAC BALKTAB.

—By Len Sherry

2. HOLS GNUSE-IM VBKLEAS EYLKVE BC
NOISELYBIG UMMZUIGL CBY OAG UYN, NOL
PAE UHRPL NB CASE AN HUG YLUZZD BSZD

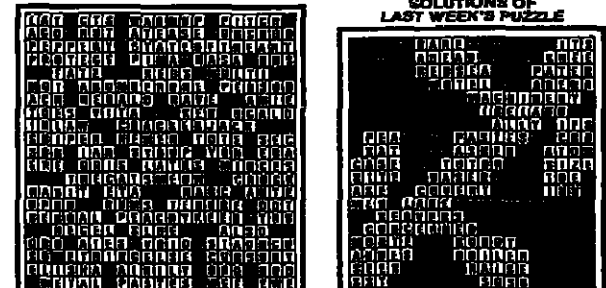
—By Lois H. Jones

3. UPAN ICKL KA TIRE PIVRL UVCIT WITT
NIBER ZABLP ZAK WAZTEEL

—By Norton Rhodes

4. IMP BYORMV SATP ORPY MALLV LUVVY
BIT YUVVL LAPSALY.

—By Ed Haddock



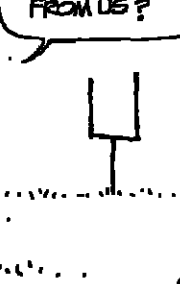
SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

B.C.

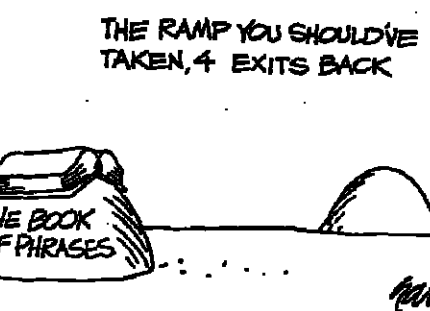
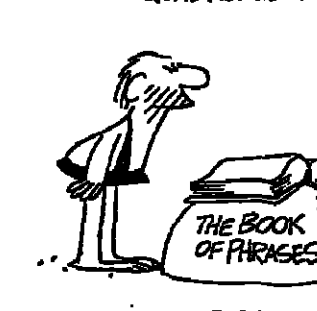
YOUR QUARTERBACK CLAIMS
HE'S NOT GETTING ENOUGH
PROTECTION.

WHAT MORE
DOES HE WANT
FROM US?

WE TOLD HIS GIRLFRIEND HE WAS
AT THE LIBRARY ALL LAST NIGHT.



QUADRUPLE BYPASS



Hollywood breeds a menace — the obsessive fan

By Ronald Clarke
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Clint Eastwood has a license to have a gun for his protection. Cybill Shepherd says she sleeps with a gun in a drawer next to her bed.

Stars are escorted by bodyguards when they go to public functions. Comedian Eddie Murphy has four.

Marlon Brando has a closed circuit television system to watch over his home. Some stars have "panic buttons"

which can snap down steel shutters over windows in an emergency.

Old Hollywood studios which built up armies of fans for their stars, sending out millions of autographed photographs, have left behind an unexpected menace — the obsessive fan.

A Michigan man, Michael Shields, 42, is due to appear in court accused of sending 212 letters to actress Stephanie Zimbalist, a star of the television series Remington Steele and daughter of Efrem Zimbalist Jr., of the long-running series The FBI.

Many of the letters were signed "your secret admirer," an FBI agent, Lawrence Lawler, said. One letter, attached to an FBI complaint, said: "You can run but you can't hide," another said: "I have some mischief in mind."

Some of the letters contained photographs of the home of 31-year-old Zimbalist. "Miss Zimbalist is obviously relieved," a publicity agent said of the arrest of shields, who faces charges of sending threatening communications.

A security specialist, Gavin de Becker, said television stars are particularly vulnerable because people see them in their living rooms and think they know them personally. Security guards watch over audiences at the televising of some of the situation comedies.

Roberta Schaeffer, a star of the series My Sister Sam, was shot dead when she answered a ring at her front door last July. Robert Bardo, 19, an unemployed caretaker described by police as obsessed by Schaeffer, was ordered five days ago to stand trial for her

murder.

Witnesses at a preliminary hearing said Bardo walked the streets showing a photograph of Schaeffer to people before she was killed.

A shipping clerk, Tina Ledbetter, accused of sending nearly 6,000 threatening letters to Michael J. Fox, star of the Back to the Future films and the television series Family Ties, was ordered last December to stay away from the actor and to undergo psychiatric counselling. She had spent 10 months in jail awaiting trial.



Michael J. Fox received 6,000 threatening letters.

A Scottish drifter, Arthur Jackson, said he had a divine mission to take actress Theresa Saldana to heaven when he stabbed her outside her Hollywood home in March 1982. He was due to be released from prison soon. But new charges could keep him in jail longer, a parole board official said.

Saldana, who starred in the film Defiance, said: "This nightmare is far from being resolved."

A Canadian farmer, Robert Kieling, was convicted several times of harassing singer Anne Murray. He was alleged to have telephoned her 263 times in six months.

A security expert, Douglas Collins, said he and a team of security experts posted a round-the-clock watch on Beatles drummer Ringo Starr and his family when fellow Beatle John Lennon was murdered by a fan, Mark Chapman, in 1980.

"They didn't go out. It was a very emotional time because no one knew if there was a conspiracy against all of the



Stephanie Zimbalist received 212 letters from an obsessed fan.

Beatles," Collins said.

John Hinckley was trying to impress actress Jodie Foster when he shot and wounded President Ronald Reagan in Washington in 1981. "You'll be proud of me, Jodie," he wrote to the actress.

"It's very frightening for young actresses because they do not always have sufficient money to pay for security," Collins said. "It is really a shame our times demand this kind of thing."

'It's very frightening for young actresses because they do not always have sufficient money to pay for security. It is really a shame our times demand this kind of thing.'



Theresa Saldana was stabbed outside her house.

Restorers finish work on Sistine Chapel ceiling

By Frances d'Emilio
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Restorers have finally finished cleaning Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling, but critics pursued them throughout

and the job took much longer than the master needed to paint the frescoes.

A small area was left undone at the altar end, in the curved right corner of the ceiling. Dull by the candle smoke, grease and dirt of

five centuries, it looks like a black hole punched into a sky of vibrant greens, heavenly blues, sensuous purples and other dynamic colours that emerged during the cleaning.

The contrast will help dozens of historians, restor-

ers and scientists this spring debate the merits of one of the most ambitious restoration projects ever, now in its 11th year.

The experts will mount the 18-metre-high scaffolding and come face-to-face with a brighter Michelangelo, whose genius came to be better known and appreciated during the cleaning in the official private chapel of Popes.

Along with the Vatican restoration team, the experts will consider questions raised by the project. Even as restorers rub their aching necks after working on a ceiling the size of a football field, more challenges loom.

The third and final phase of the Sistine Chapel restoration, Michelangelo's Last Judgment on the wall above the altar, brings up the delicate matter of whether the loin cloths — "coverups" ordered by a counter-reformation Pope, will stay on the nudes. Cleaning of the 60 x 30-foot painting will begin when the experts leave late in March.

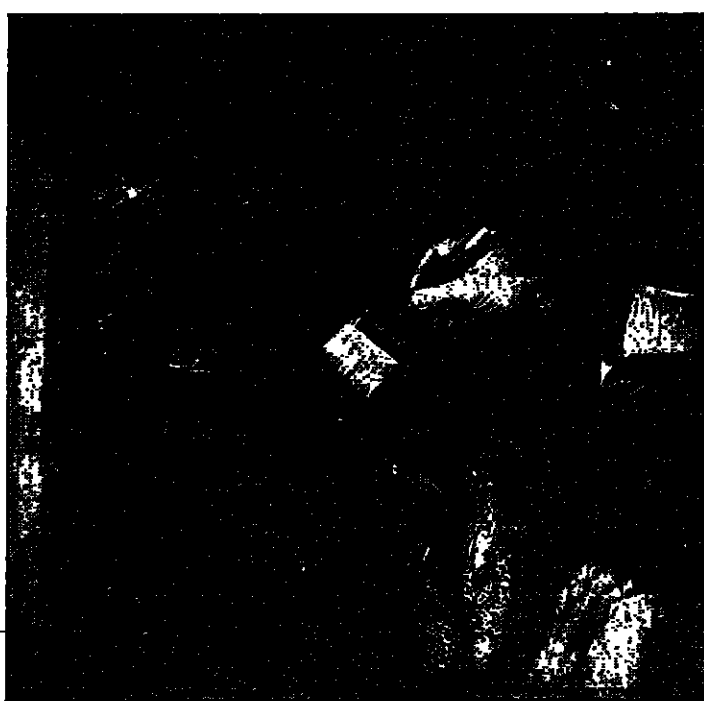
"Clearly, there's satisfaction that the ceiling is finished, but facing the Last Judgment is not exactly a relief," said Fabrizio Mancinelli, director of the restoration.

Then there's the daunting problem of how to protect the masterpiece, in its renewed glory, from the perils of pollution without keeping the public away.

When lively colours were discovered in what long was considered a somber depiction of Genesis, the restorers were accused of being unfaithful to Michelangelo's techniques and artistic vision.

Among the most vociferous critics was James Beck, a Columbia University art historian. He charged in 1987, halfway through the ceilings cleaning, that the restorers were robbing the painting of its "spirit."

Beck's "outrage was articulating a cultural shock that some people felt," said Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt, a New York University art history professor and consultant for the Vatican Museums, which include the Sistine



Cleaning sequence by chief restorer Gianluigi Colalucci shows a typical procedure. First a cleaning solvent is applied by brush (above) after three minutes solvent, residue of dirt and old varnish are wiped away (above left) with a sponge soaked in distilled and deionized water. The process is repeated 24 hours later to complete the cleaning (right)



Chapel.

She said the cleaning "gives his achievement a definition and a clarity that it hasn't had since the 16th Century," she said in an interview.

One reason restorers needed a year longer than expected to clean the fresco was the discovery that Michelangelo had great deal of touching up.

Each example had to be studied to determine whether the artist or a later restorer had done it. Michelangelo's changes were kept and the others removed.

Criticism about the colours faded. It was followed by a lively debate of what should be done about the lime green gown covering St. Catherine of Alexandria's breasts and buttocks and the numerous loin cloths added to the Last Judgment.

Michelangelo painted the Last Judgment more than 20 years after the ceiling, which he laboured on from 1508-1512. His final reckoning depicts a forceful Christ standing in judgment surrounded by apprehensive saints, angels and mythological figures, many of them nude, muscular and sensuous.

Vasari, the art historian, tells how the papal master of

ceremonies, Biagio da Cesena, denounced the nudes as more suitable for a bathhouse than the chapel where cardinals gather after the death of a pope to elect the next one.

Michelangelo, who accepted the Sistine Chapel assignment reluctantly, returned the compliment by depicting Biagio, in the paintings bottom right corner as Minos, giving the ears of an ass to the mythical guide to hell.

Michelangelo did not have the last word, however. In 1564, Pope Pius IV, after the final meeting of the reformist council of Trent, ordered the most "indecent" nudes to be covered up by artist Daniele da Volterra.

Chief restorer Gianluigi Colalucci insists that no decision has been made, noting the convention this spring will discuss possible approaches to the restoration.

The euphoria accompanying the bright revelations of the Sistine Chapel's cleaning as well as that of scores of ancient Roman monuments, Renaissance palaces and Baroque churches throughout Italy has been tempered by restoration's limitations.

As Brandt puts it, "there is

no easy high-tech fix," available to preserve treasures from corrosive, soot-laden pollution.

The Sistine restorers decided it was better to let the ceiling "breathe" than to cover it with protect coatings, which have proven in other restorations to be difficult to remove when time comes for later restorations.

The humidity in the chapel is now carefully monitored, and anti-dust carpets have been installed to remove some of the dirt from tourists' feet as they enter the chapel.

The chapel's restoration is supported by the \$3 million that a Japanese television network paid for film and photography rights in

documenting it.

To mark the completion of the ceiling, the Vatican is hosting an exhibit entitled "Michelangelo and the Sistine Chapel — the technique, restoration and myth" which was expected to run from late March through July 10. It will feature a copy of the "Last Judgment," executed before the loin cloths, to give the public an idea of the original.

Among those keenly interested in the project is Pope John Paul II, who gave his first speech as Pontiff in the chapel. His spokesman, Joaquin Navarro, says the Pontiff comes every now and then to look at the work and is pleased by the return of the bright colours.



The contrast appears obvious in the cleaned lunettes that depict the ancestors of Christ.



Ethnic styles look sexy at Ungaro; Laroche, Castet and Valentino also opulent

Agencies

PARIS — Emanuel Ungaro's luxury ready-to-wear show does more for the historically rich peasant look from the east than anybody since Yves Saint Laurent's folklore from the steppes back in 1976.

And Ungaro made it sexy, in a Parisian way that only the master tailor and colourist could pull off. It was his best ready-to-wear show in many seasons.

His new fashion message: It's now OK to look fairly glitzy even for lunch, as long as you do it tastefully.

Ungaro took flower-printed long velvet skirts and topped them with shimmering lame blouses or flowered vests and rich quilted velvet shortie jackets and Russian-army hats or pillboxes with tassels.

Colour ran riot. Sophisticated smooth-wool daytime suits were presented with bicolor waist-fitted tops, in eye-catching shades like violet, carmine or peacock with charcoal that emphasised feminine curves.

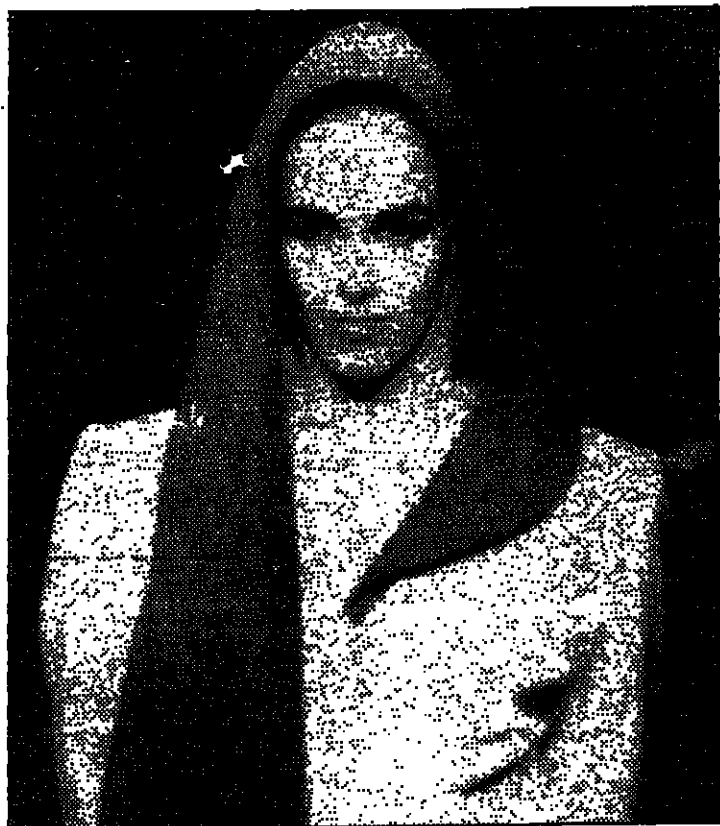
A voluptuous model looked fancy but fetching in a décolleté silk jersey blouse and long, wrapped, flowered satin high-waisted skirt ornamented by a bright pink taffeta bow and jewelled pin.

The skirt was split to show plenty of leg. The whole was topped by a royal blue taffeta-lined multi-coloured velvet jacket.

Ungaro used loads of metallic soft leathers in brief minis, sleek long pants, quilted anoraks.

Part of Ungaro's new exuberance was high, knee-covering boots worn with the minis, the most sensational in flowered prints and brocades.

He also mixed these up



A white buttoned vest over a matching shirt and red cap by Claude Montana.

with colourful printed silk velvets and satin tunics, and threw in beautifully-cut checked suits and straight pants.

His lame-shot silk print chif-fon blouses will be coveted by anybody with a yearning to shimmer and shine, at any time of day.

The glory of this collection was that one can choose. Pile on the opulence to flaunt it, or pare things down to the Ungaro details — all excellent.

Even the "little black dress," a strapless short sheath, was perfectly dressed up by strands of pearls and cabochon stones, topped by an airy black organza shrug.

At Guy Laroche, the boutique-line designer Guy Douvier got all the trends right in an upbeat collection

full of the current colours and silhouettes.

Laroche

While Ungaro's "parallele" line is expensive, a suit upward of \$2,000 or more, the somewhat simpler but still fashionable Laroche offerings are well-made, and cost about half as much.

Douvier went in for flaring shortie coats, the mohair versions looking great with important patch pockets in primary colours or more subtle shades of vanilla, coral or violet.

In the sport lines, Douvier showed good long cable-knit collegiate pullovers or silver-buttoned cardigans over tiny tweed minis. There were also great tricolour knit dresses topped by black-edged shawls.

Laroche offered the currently trendy bright quilted duffels, with some nice shortie minks and fur-lined suede duffel coats. For evening, the gold versions marched out to the beat of "goldfinger," opening up to reveal sexy split-skirt outfits underneath or a wonderful brown and lame pleated lace cocktail dress underneath.

One classic but novel trouser outfit teamed an apple-green Bolero and Jersey pullover with narrow khaki suede pants and a fringed violet-yellow-yellow shawl printed with a wild-animal pattern.

Both Ungaro and Laroche showed versions of puffy iridescent bubble short evening dresses, but they looked a bit passe compared to the slinkier gowns split up the leg.

Castet

Frederic Castet, for 20 years the fur designer at Dior, made his runway debut with a big show of fur-lined fashions. He will open a shop on the Rue Bassano, in the fashion area known as the "golden triangle" near the Champs-Elysees, and is celebrating the event with golden triangle adornments on belts and big sunflower motifs applied on silk blouses.

Besides the most sumptuous duffels, parkas and swirly pyramid minks in natural or dyed ruby or indigo shades, chinchilla, fox and fisher, Castet also brought out a beautiful new fake fur in woven silk called "castiss."

It's a dead-ringer for sheared mink or beaver, and looks fine for the ecological fashionables — as duffels, parkas, or taffeta raincoat linings.

Valentino

Valentino, meanwhile, brought out his usual impeccably-cut outfits, often featuring a new look in tiny "forty" crystal all-over pleating in flounced dresses or palazzo pants.

Valentino piled on lots of opulence in satin, lace and gold-leaf appliques, and the whole effect was so rich that one observer remarked, "You'd have to take a Brink's truck to a party to get there safely."

Lacroix treading water

Meanwhile, daunted by the challenge of the 1990s, many fashion designers appear to be resting on their laurels and uncertain of their future direction.

French designer Christian Lacroix's autumn and winter collection, a typically rich pot-pourri of fabrics, textures and colours, had more than a passing resemblance to his spring and summer offering in October.

The lines between the seasons are beginning to blur, and so is the divide between individually-tailored haute couture and mass-produced ready-to-wear.

Most of Lacroix's pre-a-ported now looks ornate enough to have priced itself out of the mass market.

Jewelled tassels swung from Spanish hats, gold shone from necklaces, earrings, brooches, and boots, coloured stones were sewn into hats and handbags and tweed jackets were woven with glitter threads or sewn with sparkling designs.

A velvet jacket with a provincial print was worn over highland tartan slacks, and shawls and capes were lined with "Wild West" fringes in a collection the stylist described as suited the nomads of modern life.

Lacroix has lost none of his daring feel for colours, successfully combining a bright fuchsia jacket with a red velvet hood and rust-coloured

suede boots.

But the end result was too rich for many tastes and some of the strongest outfits were the simplest — tight black leggings worn under a little trapezium jacket in Lacroix's signature pink or a clinging harlequin cat-suit of multi-coloured lozenges.

Montana back in fashion

Claude Montana scored a solid hit this month with his ready-to-wear show for winter, putting him right back at the top of the fashion big leagues after a brief stumble.

With his trapeze coats, use of furs and soft leathers, and bright colours, Montana soared back as a fashion leader after his disappointing debut in haute couture for Larvin in January.

Looking rather like low-keyed ready-to-wear, the Larvin show drew harsh criticism from many. But in this offering for his own line, Montana proved to be a master.

The fast-paced show led off with a "Sergeant Pepper" group of bright yellow and red fitted military jackets and chain fastenings over fitted slim pants.

He then laid on a group of full trapeze-line mini-coats in a dressy new stiffened wool-faille fabric. These sometimes topped miniskirts with matching bright tights and booties. More often he opted for stirrup-bottomed stretch satin fabrics, sometimes stitched or seamed up the sides.

Montana had been rumoured to be very depressed over reaction to his Larvin show, but with colours like mandarin orange, bright yellow, chartreuse and cornflower blue, it appeared optimism had won out.

Montana also had a field day with his favourite sheared minks, burning out parkas, trapeze shorties or anoraks in the furs. They usually had hoods or wide collars, framing hooded ribbed knits underneath.

The hooded "canadiennes" are a big trend running through all current worldwide



Lacroix model wears a yellow embroidered coat as part of his 1990 autumn-winter fashion show.

shows, and no one does them better than Montana.

Sexy, sporty looks for winter

With hooker styles at Angelo Tarlazzi and wild lampshade hoop skirts at Thierry Mugler, some of the fashion shows failed to live up to their name — ready to wear.

But with all the craziness in the show for next winter, there existed quiet and sporty moments at houses like Cerruti, Castelbajac and even Comme des Garçons.

Rei Kawakubo at Comme des Garçons concentrated on drawstring-parka looks and bubbly silhouettes. Coupled with minis or long skirts, the bulky parkas or anoraks were often in black, white or lame, with the drawstrings all over the place.

Kawakubo's new discovery was "bonded" or unwoven fabrics with a light, shimmering quality, sometimes crimped, or in gray with a mosaic or snakeskin quality.

They looked appealing in shades of brown, gold or caramel or springy colours like robin's-egg blue. And some iridescent velvety fabrics were striking for dressier moments.

Shapeless tunics, dangling extra sleeves and bunching in odd places were the usual Kawakubo trademarks that appeal to her many fans in Japan.

Yohji Yamamoto went in for red and black in a big way and offered fun if somewhat complicated styles in bi-coloured outfits with petal-like skirts under cute fake fur wraps.

He also used curvy bell shapes to advantage in longer-skirted models, with quilted skirts and sleeves paired with fitted bodices. The bubbly skirts and tops gave it all a "modern-medieval" look.

Milan prepares for a short and sporty winter

MILAN — Italian designers are predicting a short winter for next year — at least where hemlines are concerned.

Not only is the average skirt a good 8 centimetres above the knee, but the fall-winter 1990-1991 ready-to-wear collections being presented in Milan this week are full of bermudas and short shorts, items usually reserved for the warmer months of the year.

What was a daring step in the late 1980's — when for the first time in 20 years the "moda Milanese" hiked hemlines above the knee — has become a way of life for the fashionable woman in the new decade.

Most fashion followers agree that the latest Gianni Versace mini-skirt is just too short, but at the same time Versace is the clearest statement that short hemlines are

here to stay.

Once women have agreed to bare their thighs it is easy to get them to wear shorts in the winter too.

The new winter bermudas and shorts are loose and sporty, usually in corduroy or light wool jersey worn with dark or printed stockings and comfortable walking shoes.

In general the latest "moda Milanese" is pert rather than sexy, with a heavy accent on sportswear.

Gone are the tailored city suits and elegant coats of past seasons. They have been replaced by sweatsuits, sport jackets, parkas, down and duffel coats and loads of knitwear from cozy cardigans, pullovers and sweater-dresses to the brand new all-knit jumpsuit.

Colours range from the browns and reds of autumn leaves to the icy beige, green and blue pastel shades of a winter landscape.

Three of the designers who showed their new collections here in March — Krizia, Missoni and Byblos — are long time experts in the field of chic sportswear.

Krizia

Krizia proposes a soft and casual look. Shoulders are natural, hemlines brief and waistslines loose.

Jackets tend to be oversized with huge shawl collars, rounded hemline and draw-string waist. In the coat department Krizia offers cozy bathrobe coats with silk cord monk belts.

For mountain fun or cold city days Krizia offers a series of quilted items from long down coats and duffel coats to pert quilted mini skirts.

Every season Krizia picks specific motifs to adorn her pullovers and sweaters. For next winter she steals cherubs from a renaissance painting and prints them on her



A richly embroidered silk dress complete with embroidered head by Italian designer Gianni Versace

soft cashmere pullovers and short sweater-dresses. White horses and imperial eagles also adorn many of her outfits.

To dress up her sporty look Mariuccia Mandelli, the woman behind the Krizia label, embroiders gold onto lapels, hemlines and cuffs.

Since last winter, the Italian designers have caught on to the ecological movement, replacing their once sumptuous furs with exquisite look-alikes in teddy bear plush. Thus the Krizia lady can flaunt her tiger, leopard or brightly dyed beaver knowing it's all innocuous fluff.

Missoni

Missoni has been king of Italian knitwear ever since he presented his reversible knit and quilted jackets in Florence several decades ago. But his latest collection, entirely dedicated to Russia, is one of the best in many a season.

Beautiful reversible coats and parkas are knitted in patterns of Russian folk art: The onion towers of Red Square,

the quaint houses of a Russian village, the geometric designs of a carpet.

These patterns are also used for the knitted jumpsuits and sweat pants, as well as for the silk evening outfits.

Byblos

Later in the day, Keith Varty for Byblos presented his version of the sporty 1990-1991 winter woman.

True to his British blood, he dresses her in the favourite items of his native countryside: Riding jackets with velvet collars, riding breeches and blouses complete with ascot tie. Lace embroidery adds a feminine touch to the austere look.

For languid hours by the fire of your favourite ski lodge Varty offers heavy knit pullovers in ivory white with large rose patterns and cable knit Irish sweaters.

Speaking of skiing, Varty's new parka with string tie and fur trimmed hood in icy beige or blue are sure to be a hot item on the slopes from Aspen to St. Moritz.

London fashion: Short, sporty by day and slinky by night

LONDON — The fall fashion message from London is short, sporty by day and slinky by night, with flashes of British wit and individuality. The mood, however, is uncertain.

Top designers Katherine Hamnett and John Galiano skipped London to show in Paris. Two other big names, Rifat Ozbek and Jasper Conran, opted for videos instead of catwalk shows, and fewer buyers stopped off in London en route from Milan to Paris.

Nonetheless, there was still some of that old wacky madness that put London on the fashion map.

Vivienne Westwood, the mother of punk garb, captivated the audience with a collection ranging from classic tailored tartan suits to fake-fur-trimmed bloomers worn with old master-print corsets.

A lycra-clad dancing troupe dressed as haute couture pigs opened the red or dead show based on barnyard characters of country life. Bodymap did a vision of drag queen club life in their sexy sportswear collection.

Britain's designers of the year, workers for freedom duo Richard Nott and Graham Fraser, showed a collection Nott described as "sparse femininity," which featured bikini over striped body suits, one of the key fall looks from London.

London fashion week has spread out even further with designers showing all over

town and the trade show featuring about 250 exhibitors at the Olympia 2 exhibition hall.

At Olympia, accessories from hats to bracelets seemed hotter than clothes.

"I think largely because of high interest rates and the high cost of living, women can't afford to buy another outfit, so they're buying accessories," said Beverley Mann, 28, one of the design duo of the costume jewelry firm Flash Harry.

Melanie Lazo of Obsession, another costume jewelry firm, said: "London is kind of a melting pot for a wide range of accessories ranging from the weird and wonderful to the Chanel-type classic."

Many fashion designers said the number of buyers was down.

"It's much quieter than it was last year," said David Sassoon of Belville Sassoon-Lorcan Mullany, one of London's top eveningwear designers.

"I think stores everywhere are having a hard time," he said. "Where money's tight, they want selling clothes. They don't want jokes. ... They don't want over-the-top things they might have indulged in previously."

Benny Ong, another leading designer whose soft, sensual clothes sell internationally, agreed that the economic situation was keeping buyers away from London.

"That's why it's important at those times when the econo-



Rifat Ozbek's disco body suit and bolero

mic situation is not so hot to go for colour — to pick yourself up," he said. "Power dressing has also changed to something more feminine and confident."

Edina Ronay, bucking the trend with her first catwalk show, said her business was up and insisted that London was "Not going to fall flat on its face because two people show in Paris."

Her collection of suits and parkas in orange, oshre and olive, fur-trimmed and brocade hooded jackets, and skin-tight gold lame and black tops and body suits won high marks for wearability.

There were plenty of other wearable clothes as well.

Bruce Oldfield, who designs many of Princess Diana's dresses, incorporated the sporty spirit in his hooded, printed parkas, luxurious velvet bodysuits, sequined sweatshirts and a

gold sequined bomber jacket with pants.

Caroline Charles did a "eurochic" collection featuring Romanian peasant embroideries and folksy tapestry and fringing alongside her snappy city suits and slinky evening dresses.

Ozbek abandoned his summer white for dazzling colours — another fall theme — in hooded tops, tunics, cropped bomber jackets and leggings and body suits in dazzling sequins, stretch velvet and gold lame.

Conran found his inspiration in "the off-duty ballerina," with body-hugging catsuits topped by cropped leather jackets and quilted bronze bomber jackets.

Helen Story, one of the up-and-coming young designers, had fun with a soccer-for-women look, again featuring hooded bomber jackets and soccer shorts with her signature fringing.



A town and country look by Byblos

Business is bad in E. Beirut

By Peter Smerdon
Reuter

BEIRUT — Staff at La Cigale restaurant and delicatessen greet a customer with kisses, hugs, cries of "thank God you're safe" and a free brandy.

Business is that bad in East Beirut these days.

La Cigale, favoured rendez-vous for east Beirut's rich, influential or chic, has hit hard times in common with the rest of the city since being mauled by Lebanon's inter-Christian war.

"We were shut for the first two weeks of February because of the fighting outside," says co-owner Joseph Bou Samra. "It was the first time we had to close since La Cigale was established in 1980."

"This last round of war was by far the worst and, this is important, it did what 14 years of fighting never achieved: It killed the hope in people. We are all very low."

"Despair has descended on even the officials, businessmen, and diplomats who used to pack La Cigale at lunchtime. The restaurant is empty while outside the city struggles as it tries to survive."

"We're lucky compared to most other businesses because food is essential for life," says Bou Samra. "What do people do trapped each evening at home? They still drink and eat. So they buy here."

But business is very bad — ten per cent of what it was before fighting started. We are losing money, most of our employees haven't come to work and we cannot get supplies because ports are closed."

Imported lobsters, smoked salmon and hams lie undisturbed in the freezers.

A ceasefire since March 2 between General Michel Aoun's troops and the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) is violated daily. La Cigale, which used to open until midnight, closes at 6 p.m. because gunmen own the battered streets.

Both sides hold frontlines across east Beirut, leaving people unable to pick up the pieces of their lives or even move unless they risk being trapped in a traffic jam at a checkpoint when fighting starts. Few believe the lull will last.

Bou Samra said two-thirds of his 80 employees had failed to turn up because they were too frightened or take three hours to reach work as they lived in areas under LF control while La Cigale is in a neighbourhood held by the army.

"We will pay them all until the end of this month if they come to collect their money because they were not to blame," Bou Samra said. "But after that we consider each case individually."

La Cigale employed the best staff. Many have stayed with the business since it started. Most other workers in east Beirut are not being paid because trade is paralysed.

Turn left out of La Cigale on the shell-cooked highway and you reach a frontline roadblocks within 500 metres. Turn right and it's a six kilometre drive to Dbayeh tunnel, blocked by barricades and land mines.

With businesses closed, people spend the daylight hours searching for petrol and food, paying with dwindling savings and remittances from abroad. Rows of champagne bottles in La Cigale are untouched even by the rich.

"No one buys them. Perhaps they will drink them when the war ends, I hope," Bou Samra said. "We haven't increased our prices as it is old stock." A bottle of French non-vintage champagne costs \$16.

Diplomats estimate the LF army war caused damage worth between \$500 million and \$1 billion to the Christian enclave. More than 850 people were killed and 2,700 wounded.

Tens of thousands of Christians have fled to safer areas.

"When you find yourself waiting for the next shell, you should leave Lebanon," Bou Samra said. The owners of La Cigale are proud that it opened daily during six months of shelling between east and Muslim west Beirut during Aoun's "war of liberation" to expel Syrian troops from Lebanon last year.

Virtually every building has been damaged on the street outside — one of the safest areas in east Beirut.

"The war of liberation was nothing, nothing compared to this," Bou Samra said.

Bou Samra and some staff were trapped in the shop for days but escaped during a morning lull.

"I will stay," said Bou Samra. "There's still money here. We underestimated demands for Mother's Day and ran out of cakes... I love this country. They can't destroy all our homes. For what? What are you left with?"



A Lebanese boy scavenges in a car wrecked by artillery battles in Beirut

Aquaculture — a market with a future

By Evelyne Simonnet

THE STAKES represented by aquaculture are so great that one day this form of production might experience a world growth on the scale of agriculture in the 20th century.

Food resources from the sea and other sources of water are considerable. But out of about 95 million tonnes of sea food-resources gathered in the world every year, only 10 per cent come from aquaculture, with the rest resulting from fishing activities.

The world production has become diversified. More than 1,000 species are fished and attempts are being made to grow more than 50 (with algae, shellfish, crustaceans and fish), but fewer than 10 species are really domesticated.

In France, there is a trade deficit in food resources from the sea. The French consume about a million tonnes of fish a year, that is to say 22 kilos per person, which is quite considerable, 450,000 tonnes are imported which is about 8 billion francs' worth, while exports do not exceed 2.4 billion.

This deficit increases every year for two reasons: France is unable to extract more good quality stock from her territorial waters (which are already over harvested) and farms. Aquaculture is still inadequate. In this area, the prospects for development are different according to the species considered.

In the area of shell-fish production, it seems possible to increase the market on the condition of improving productivity (with shorter cycles) by colonising new sites (salt-flats, and deep water for oysters), by breeding new species (clams and scallops) and by having a more modern presentation, less dependent on the season.

In the area of salmoniculture (trout, salmon, smelts, etc.), France is the top producer of trout in the world with about



Breeding salmon-coloured trout (Photo: Jerrican)

30,000 tonnes a year with a majority production of "single portion" rainbow trout (200 to 300 grammes). This production comes up against growing international competition and a certain stagnation on the French domestic market. The way to the future is through diversification (by breeding larger trout weighing over a kilo) and trans-

formation. Pisciculture in ponds is a very ancient tradition. For a long time, there was a decline in this sector, but today, there are new outlets for it, thanks to the work of professionals. The species bred are carp, pike, roach, tench and perch. Some of them are used to repopulate rivers, others are exported or used for consumption after transformation. Owing to the area still available (130,000 existing hectares, only 70,000 of which are rationally exploited today) and the evolution of techni-

ques (experience of marketing carp in the form of ready-made dishes), prospects for developing pool pisciculture are still considerable.

Aquaculture with new species is being tried with eels, sturgeon, catfish, crayfish, prawns, clams and bass and much research is being carried out on the conditions of breeding them extensively and producing them on an industrial scale.

The development of aquaculture is not only an economic asset for reducing the amount of crustaceans, fresh or frozen salmon, frogs, crayfish and pike imported into France. It is also the only means of giving value to the numerous pools and reservoirs.

Aquaculture is also an original and irreplaceable means of giving value to certain underprivileged agricultural areas, particularly wetlands. By contributing to di-

versifying traditional agricultural products, or even to giving agricultural workers a new career, aquaculture is a capital stake in the reorganisation of rural areas.

Aquacultural resources and environments can be transformed so as to make them more efficient for the community, on the condition of studying and solving the constraints imposed by the development of this form of production, whether it be economic (with a better organisation of the whole sector), ecological (with the respect of the fragile and complex aquatic ecosystems), technological (with the improvement of the conditions of exploitation and transformation) or social (with competition from numerous activities in order to make use of space).

All these conditions together give good prospects for the development of French aquaculture (L'Actualité en France).

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Rajneesh is dead, but his sex sect lives on

By Moses Manoharan
Reuter

POONA, India — Their God is dead, but followers of Bhagwan Rajneesh still flock to his commune in western India in pursuit of a lifestyle preached by a man who was called both sex guru and enlightened master.

Clad in maroon robes, disciples, or sanyasins, of the bhagwan, which means God in Hindi, guard the imposing gates of the sprawling Osho Commune International in Poona, near Bombay.

"We need an AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) certificate before you can enter. But don't worry, we can fix that," says Rajneesh sanyasin Ma Pragna.

Pragna, who like other disciples was given a new name at an initiation ceremony, escorts a visitor to a commune clinic where a doctor hugs and kisses a patient while treating her.

"He (Rajneesh) said sex was a natural phenomenon. People hug and kiss all the time here. Sometimes it's physical sex, or pure love. It's no big deal, but people labelled him a sex guru," said Pragna, an Indian.

The commune, or ashram, houses 7,000 people from all parts of the world at any given time.

Two are from the Soviet Union. One said she was from Lischansk in the Ukraine. Her translator is Ma Jivan Mada, an architect who left Soviet Armenia in 1976 for Canada.

"I see true communism here in this commune where there is no suppression of the individual," Mada said.

Rajneesh's views on the ideal commune are practised at the ashram, where he started the sect in 1974 and provoked people with irreverent attacks on religious figures and politicians.

Rumours of sexual orgies and drug-taking grew as his commune swelled with European and American youths who came East on the hippie trail.

Fuelling the rumours were Rajneesh's views that marriage was an outdated concept and that established religions glorified suffering and made man feel guilty if he pursued material luxuries. He had 93 Rolls Royces and masses of jewels.

"In the new world to which I have dedicated my whole life, there should be no marriage, only lovers. Whether one is man or woman, everybody needs change at least once in a while," said Rajneesh in one lecture.

A German photographer visiting the ashram said Rajneesh attracted disciples by evolving a philosophy that propagated a mix of Eastern spiritual values and Western material luxuries.

"Hippiedom was dead by the time Rajneesh came about and youths were searching for an alternative that could appeal to their intellect more," the photographer said.

Every evening comes a major event of the commune's day, a Rajneesh discourse.

Randa Habib's
Corner

Big brother is alive and kicking

THE parliamentary debate on what to do about the leak and publication of secret session deliberations last week was like playing squash with a dish of scrambled eggs. Most of the egg was splattered on the facade of our so-called democratic experiment.

No less than 31 deputies voted to send journalists to the prosecutor general to teach them a lesson on how to respect secrets. Perhaps in the quiet of the prison cells they would learn that, next time, should leave it to big brother (the House) to decide what people should and should not know about what goes on in the country. Who said big brother is dead? He is reincarnated in the shape of 31 Jordanian parliamentarians who had a ball on Monday playing squash with a dish of scrambled eggs.

In putting our Jordanian house in order, it seems we have forgotten the kitchen where some of our chefs have not yet learned the democratic notion that people have the right to eat what they like, the way they like it and whenever they like it, and certainly at the restaurant they like if their kitchen is playing hide and seek with their favourite meal.

Perhaps we are being too harsh on our representatives. It brings to mind something Norman Sarapan said in 1982 about Britain's parliament: "The essentially feminine role of parliament in the constitutional process does indeed put one in the mind of the traditional wife in a male (or government) dominated national household. What the master says goes. Parliament may advise, complain, criticise, protest, delay, nag, scream its head off. But it does what it's told in the end."

Arar: Row can end soon

(Continued from page 1)

now become the source of all power. Furthermore, the law has divided the country's authorities into three categories:

The legislative authority (Parliament) comprising elected representatives of the people who assume the task of enacting laws that would ensure public freedoms;

The second authority (the executive authority) assumes the task of managing various utilities and coordinates work among various groups and applies all laws and legislation. It is responsible for ensuring people's rights.

The third authority (the judicial authority) is entrusted with applying the law and preventing any violations and deterring those who try to violate the laws.

These are the only three authorities that are provided for by the laws of all countries of the world. Where did the fourth authority come from?

Indeed, the fourth estate or authority originated with British conservative politicians at a time when democracy was being developed in Britain during the 19th century.

This concept emerged when there was a surge of street mobs in Britain, with demonstrators demanding their rights that were denied to the masses, and freedom from the hegemony of capitalist industrialists during the industrial revolution. One of the British lords who had noted the effects of the press as the "fourth estate." That lord had meant that the media had great influence on the masses, transforming its power into a force to exercise pressure on the three authorities in the country. Indeed, the fourth estate is not the press but rather the masses which were exploited by the press that used to serve as the only means of influence on the public. The "masses estate" or the "fourth estate" later came to be called "public opinion." But the press is not the only means in our modern age that can influence the masses.

Indeed, as (Egyptian writer) Hassan Haikal has said, television has assumed the dominant role, affecting and influencing the masses, followed by radio which can reach areas where newspapers do not reach.

Therefore, as Haikal has said, the fourth estate, which is the masses, has more than the press to express its views. I must emphasise that there can be no responsibility without authority and no authority without responsibility...

One of the foremost essential rights required to guarantee dialogue is to have the right to commit errors. Having accepted this dogma, how can we question people about their deeds? How can we ask people to account for what they had done? And who should demand that such account be given?

If we let things go unchecked, leave enthusiasm to run high and people to expel their reactions as they wish and be carried away with their feelings and desires, allow those who possess the power to publish others the right to slander or praise others at will and allow the rest of the journalists to join in the slanderous attacks and insults, or soon, then all voices will be silenced either out of fear of being attacked by the press or in hope of winning favour.

If we allow ourselves to be carried away with continual dialogue and feel that we are abrogating the same laws which Parliament should protect, then we will all fall in our duty and will be committing a terrible blunder.

Therefore, it is advisable for all of us to admit our mistakes and reveal the facts to the public. I do realise that you and Al Rai had never monopolised news is right because the press can also make mistakes. Free dialogue which has for long been upheld by Al Rai newspaper which commits mistakes half the time.

I express my appreciation for you and my confidence in the role of the press in our country, and the role of Al Rai newspaper in supporting it... and I hope pride will not stand in our way where there is no problem if we want to bury our rift before it is aggravated and if we mean to protect the democratisation process and not to abuse it.

Missionary shot dead

(Continued from page 1)

Robinson's activities after villagers' complaint that he was building a settlement. A Foreign Ministry official told Reuters local officials were told four days ago to deport the missionary.

Robinson came to Lebanon as an evangelical missionary in 1983 and had stayed despite repeated urging from diplomats to leave for his own safety.

Backed by funds from Christ-

ian fundamentalists in the United States and elsewhere, he took over an abandoned public school compound and set up a home for handicapped children at the village.

Villagers started a media campaign to prevent him from buying more public land ostensibly to provide shelter for the elderly. The villagers said he wanted to create a settlement for up to 200 Jewish immigrants.

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ACP countries lambast EC

the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, to guide the economy in a direction of slow growth and low inflation.

Alfred Kahn, economics professor emeritus at Cornell University, said he was frightened at the lack of U.S. control over its monetary policy, which stems from the need to draw in the investment funds.

Although rising interest rates may be harmful in the long run to the economy, the market changes often occur so quickly that they are reversed before the economy suffers.

"There is a tendency to exaggerate the extent to which movements of interest rates impact the real economy," said Melion Bank chief economist Robertson.

"I'm not saying that interest rates have no impact on credit-sensitive sectors of the economy. But... a quarter-point rise in interest rates every three to four months does not have a very significant impact."

Both the EC and ACP states have criticised what they see as long-winded, bureaucratic procedures by which aid projects are proposed, approved and financed under the convention, which is named for the capital of Togo, the West African nation where the first pact was signed.

Mara said most aid donors took less than a year to come up with cash, while the Community sometimes took four times as long. He proposed setting up a joint EC-ACP body to find ways to streamline the disbursement process.

When the third Lomé pact, which came into effect in 1985, expired in February only 19 per cent of the 8.5 billion European Currency Units (\$10.2 billion) committed by the EC had actually been paid out.

Lomé IV gives the Third World nations, many of them former European colonies, 12 billion

European Currency Unit (ECUs) (some \$14.4 billion) of aid and loans on easy terms over five years as well as a range of trade concessions.

But the ACP had asked for three billion ECUs (\$3.6 billion), more funding and better access to the Community for its agricultural exports.

"The Lome conventions, per se, have not been able so far to accommodate the full expectations of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of countries," Mara said.

"We of the group feel that the EC has not been as responsive to our needs as they could be," he noted.

Surrin's minister of economic affairs, William Grep, who chairs the ACP side, expressed the group's continuing concern that economic and political reforms in Eastern Europe would drain re-

sources away from the developing world.

"When we see all Western European private investment flows going to (East Europe), while our investments in our states are on the decline, we are bound to harbour some disquiet," he said.

Irish state Minister Sean Cosgrave sought to reassure the ACP states, saying the EC member states were determined to strengthen their cooperation with the Third World.

"Our relations with Eastern and Central Europe and with developing countries are complementary and not mutually exclusive; supportive and not competitive," he said.

Nor would the creation of the EC's single barrier-free internal market by the end of 1992 lead to a watering down of the EC's aid commitments, he said.

Tanzania set to introduce reforms

whites, who account for just 75,000 of the country's 1.3 million people. SWAPO estimates that whites own about two-thirds of private property and earn about 10 times as much as blacks on average.

The most pressing economic task for the government will be to meet rising black expectations without alienating whites, who can move to neighbouring South Africa.

The Namibian government is facing a deficit of almost \$200 million on this year's budget of about \$900 million. The foreign debt is more than \$350 million, relatively modest compared to most nations on the heavily indebted continent.

So far, Namibia's leading aid donors have been West Germany, which has agreed to give \$59 million and Britain, which will give \$16 million.

South Africa has cut assistance to Namibia after steadily reducing its aid in recent years, but South African President F.W. De Klerk said trade talks and other ties will remain strong.

of red tape which would-be investors have faced in the past.

And many of the present laws on investment, taxation and licensing will be amended or repealed.

The economic reforms implemented by Mtwinyi since he came to power in 1985 have been backed by loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank and generous support from Western donors.

The government said the new investment policy aims to improve on the poor investment growth rates which it blamed in large measure for "unprecedented economic difficulties" since the late 1970s.

"Total capital investment in real terms increased by 25.6 per cent between 1973 and 1981, then registered negative growth of 1.1 per cent between 1977 and 1981 and then rose by only 19 per cent between 1981 and 1985," the government statement said.

It said Tanzania planned to improve legal protection for investors by joining the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes and the Multilateral Investments Guarantee Agency, both World Bank agencies.

Benefits would also be offered in the form of tax holidays on new investments and favourable schemes on personal income tax.

indirect taxes and withholding taxes on dividends.

The statement said that to begin with priority would be given to investments which boost export earnings, the transfer of technology or reduce imports.

Diplomats said Tanzania's so far been slow to implement economic reforms and they predicted that it would take some

THE Daily Cross

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42 "This — sudden!"
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time to put the new investment policy in place.

They also pointed to severe infrastructure problems, such as bad roads and unreliable power supplies, which were likely to deter potential investors.

"It's a step in the right direction but it could be a long while before we see any results," one diplomat said.

word by Melvin Kanterowky

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NEW YORK — A new drop in Tokyo stocks added to market uncertainty in morning trading. Blue chips vacillated between small losses and small gains. The Dow was almost unchanged at 2,737.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A friend of a romantic turn of mind, but not a romantic himself. He is a person of recreation or entertainment, whether by phone or personal visit.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September

for granted but lift up their spirit by telling them how much you

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Herl Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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BOBING
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ENNOIT
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Answer: MORE **THAN**

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: FUZZY HUMAN AVONAL DROPSY
Answer: What that buffet dinner was sort of—
"LAP-HAZARD"

Steeb, Cane face nerve tests in Davis Cup

LONDON (R) — Contingents apart but united by determination, Carl-Uwe Steeb and Paolo Cane have everything to prove in the second round of the Davis Cup this weekend.

Without the pillar of Boris Becker, it is Steeb who must guide cup holders West Germany through a tricky away tie against Argentina.

A clay court — the favourite surface of the South Americans — and the frenzied and noisy participation of the Buenos Aires tennis fans, are two obstacles which Steeb must negotiate if he is to live up to his promise that the team can succeed even without Becker.

The Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion, stalwart of the West German campaign

for five years and architect of their two successive victories in the final, is taking time off to concentrate on his dream of becoming world number one.

But despite dropping out of the cup, Becker's plans have already suffered a setback. Stefan Edberg overtook him for the number two spot by reaching the final of the international players' championships last Sunday.

Becker is a voluntary absentee from the cup but Edberg was denied the chance of trying to win back the trophy this year when Italy, thanks to Cane, knocked out Sweden in the first round.

While Sweden, four times champions and finalists for the last seven years, face the

shame of the world group qualifying round in September, Cane has to demonstrate that his three superb match wins in Italy's 3-2 victory were no fluke.

Suspended by his national federation last year for bad behaviour and public criticism of officials, the fiery Cane was welcomed back into the fold like a prodigal son after Italy's surprise win in Cagliari.

But the notoriously fickle Italian fans will soon forget Cane's first-round triumphs if he fails to conjure up a repeat performance against Austria on Vienna's indoor clay courts.

American hopes of winning back the cup they have taken 28 times — the last eight years

ago — have been hit by Andre Agassi's decision not to play.

Agassi, who moved up to world number four after beating Edberg in the international players' final in Key Biscayne, pulled out two days after being named to the squad which will play Czechoslovakia in Prague.

The decision sparked a row with U.S. Captain Tom Gorman who questioned Agassi's commitment to Davis Cup play. Agassi, veteran of five cup campaigns, responded by dubbing Gorman "a follower in a leader's position."

To take Agassi's place, Gorman has brought in Aaron Krickstein, another of the seven Americans in the world top 10.

Nicklaus to start PGA tour

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP) — Jack Nicklaus goes to the seniors Professional Golfers Association tour in a no-win situation.

He's the only man who has nothing to win and everything to lose, Chi Chi Rodriguez said.

"If he wins, everybody will say, 'he's Jack Nicklaus. He's supposed to win.' Chi Chi explained. "If he doesn't win, everybody will ask, 'what's wrong?'"

At least two things are wrong as Nicklaus makes his first official start as a senior this week in the tradition at desert mountain.

First, the man generally regarded as the finest player in the game is having trouble convincing himself he belongs among the over-50 set.

I'm in a quandary, Nicklaus said. I feel I'm still competitive on the regular tour, Nicklaus said. Until I get it in my head I'm not competitive on the regular tour, it's hard for me to get excited about playing another tour."

Second, Nicklaus is playing a schedule so restricted — maybe a half-dozen senior tournaments, 10-12 official events overall — that he isn't giving himself a full chance to be competitive anywhere.

"The guys on the regular tour play 30 tournaments. The guys on the seniors tour play 30 tournaments," he said. "I've been playing 10 tournaments. You can't be competitive that way, not on the regular tour, not on the seniors."

"Jack will do well on the seniors, Floyd predicted, and took note of Lee Trevino's three wins in four starts earlier this season.

But he's not going to beat Lee playing 10 or 12 tournaments," Floyd said. "You know it, and I know it, and he knows it."

But Trevino, a career-long admirer of Nicklaus, isn't quite so sure. "He's the greatest player who ever put on the spikes," Trevino said. "When Jack plays, he's the man to beat."

Rangers clinch Patrick Division title — 1st in 48 yrs

QUEBEC (AP) — The New York Rangers have won their first Division championship in 48 years, rallying for five third-period goals in less than 10 minutes for a 7-4 victory over the Quebec Nordiques to clinch the Patrick Division.

The Rangers last title was in 1941-42, when the NHL was a seven-team league, and came two years after their third and last Stanley Cup. They had finished second twice since the NHL went to its current divisional format.

James Patrick started the Rangers Rally Tuesday night from a 4-2 deficit with a power-play goal at 5:27, beating Ron Tugnutt with a 45-foot slap shot after Kelly Kisio won a faceoff.

Brian Mullen tied it with another power-play goal at 8:03 and Mike Gartner, acquired at the trading deadline, scored his 10th goal in nine games with New York at 9:10. It was the seventh straight game in which Gartner had scored in the third period.

Sabres 6, Red Wings 5

Detroit — Dave Andreychuk scored three times during a five-goal first period and the Buffalo Sabres held on, eliminating the Red Wings from playoff contention with a 6-5 win.

The Red Wings (28-37-13), two-time defending Norris Division champions, missed the playoffs for the first time since 1985-86 and the first time in Jacques Demers four years as coach.

Whalers 3, Penguins 3

Pittsburgh — Yvon Cormiveau and Adam Burt scored in just over three minutes of the third period to give Hartford a 3-3 tie with Pittsburgh, extending the Penguins winless streak to six games.

The Penguins, on slides of 0-3-3 and 1-7-3, still managed to get within one point of third-place Washington in the Patrick Division.

They are three points ahead of the Philadelphia Flyers and New York Islanders.

Flames 4, Islanders 2
Uniondale, New York — Theoren Fleury scored the tie-breaking goal late in the second period as the flames sent the staggering Islanders to the brink of playoff elimination in a 4-2 game.

The Islanders trail Pittsburgh by three points with two games remaining. New York must win both its games and have the Penguins lose theirs to have any chance of making the playoffs.

Devils 4, Capitals 1

East Rutherford, New Jersey — Kirk Muller and Dave Malley scored 72 seconds apart midway through the first period and New Jersey prevented Washington from clinching a playoff spot, beating the Capitals 4-1.

The victory was the third straight and eighth in 11 games for the Devils and assured them of finishing no worse than third in the Patrick Division. Their best finish ever. New Jersey can clinch second by winning one of its final three regular-season games.

Bush going to a baseball opening game

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush is going to a baseball opener in Canada to see the Texas Rangers, which is partially owned by his son.

The president will be in Toronto to April 10 for talks with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, the White House said Tuesday.

After an afternoon chat, the

two will take in some of the Blue Jays home opener that night against the Rangers in the Toronto Skydome. The president's eldest son, George Walker Bush, is a part-owner of the Rangers.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Bush and Mulroney will discuss bilateral and international issues of mutual interest, particularly the changes

taking place in Europe.

But he acknowledged the lighting visit — Bush plans to arrive in mid-afternoon, stay for only a few innings of the game and return to the White House before midnight — was mostly baseball.

Bush had planned to attend the traditional opener in Cincinnati April 2, but the season was delayed a week because of the

contract dispute in which owners locked players out of spring training for 32 days. The two sides finally settled March 19.

Bush told reporters last Wednesday he was still eager to throw out a ceremonial first ball somewhere.

"I want to do what's right by the national pastime," I don't want to do it if people think it's frivolous," the president said.

French government investigates top soccer club finances

PARIS (R) — The French government has launched an inquiry into fraud and tax evasion involving some of the country's top soccer clubs after the finance ministry said it had evidence of "serious breaches of the law."

Michel Charasse, the minister in charge of tax collection, Tuesday ordered an investigation into the accounts, income and practices of top soccer clubs, of their managers and of some governing bodies of the sport.

"Proceedings have already allowed (the ministry) to discover serious breaches of the law," a ministry statement said, adding that the inquiry would be completed by the end of the year. It gave no details. At least one French millionaire Bernard

Tapie, president of European Cup semi-finalists Marseille, met Charasse Tuesday and handed him a file containing examples of alleged fraud by rival clubs.

"Tapie has informed the minister of the outcome of a study he has been carrying out on the 'unacceptable' profits made by managers, collaborators and 'friends' of some soccer clubs," the statement said.

"According to Tapie, these profits were made at the expense of clubs in violation of tax and custom laws," it added.

"I have gathered information on all the important transfers of the past seasons. It shows that some are guilty of tax fraud and cheat the clubs they are in charge of," Tapie said in an interview

with the sports daily newspaper L'Equipe last week.

Tapie blamed the fraud on people posing as agents and middle-men.

"Millions of francs change hands through these impostors. So-called businessmen receive so-called commissions which are handed back to those involved," he said.

Tapie said his file concerned more than 30 recent transfers, including that of his own club, Marseille.

He spent \$24 million at the start of the season to recruit stars such as England's Chris Waddle and Brazil's Carlos Mozzer.

He said he was not worried about Marseille's transfers.

Tapie has not named any of the clubs alleged to be involved in the frauds, but Charasse told L'Equipe: "I should be surprised if Bordeaux managers said they were not aware of some tax irregularities."

Bordeaux president Claude Bez, himself a top auditor in southwest France, this week said his club's accounts were perfectly sound.

French federation president Jean Fournet-Fayard deplored Tapie's attitude. "I regret that he did not tell us about his files. If he had something to say, he knew whom to call."

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(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

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Fresh violence rocks S. Africa; whites form vigilante group

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Political unrest in South Africa's black townships brought fresh violence to Natal province Wednesday amid signs of growing alarm among whites.

Whites in conservative Orange Free State province have formed vigilante groups to prevent the new round of violence spilling over into residential areas where they live.

Up to 400 people have been killed in violence across the country over the past two months. Residents in the mining town Welkom said they had set up the so-called "white security group" of uniformed armed patrols to protect property against black troublemakers. It is the first white vigilante group formed in recent years.

"We want to protect our neighbourhood," white security chief David Naude told the pro-gov-

ernment Citizen newspaper. "We just got sick and tired of sitting around and doing nothing while our country burned." Police said three people were killed, 24 injured including eight policemen, and 91 arrested nationwide in unrest in the 24 hours to Wednesday morning.

In Natal, residents said hundreds of blacks belonging to rival anti-apartheid organisations used guns and machetes to battle each other in the black Edendale township outside the provincial capital Pietermaritzburg.

"I'm hearing babies crying and women crying over the phone. It's bad around here," a black journalist who monitors the violence said by telephone Wednesday.

"It's extremely tense. One hears the echo of gunfire the whole time," said welfare worker Peter Kerchoff. "There is an

ongoing faracas. It moves from one place to another and another around the hills."

He said he drove three youths to hospital, two of whom had bullet wounds. The third had a machete head wound.

Edendale was the scene Tuesday of one of the largest pitched battles in three years of chronic violence in Natal Groups allied to Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) are pitted there against the traditional Zulu-based Inkatha movement.

Police said they fired pistols, shotguns, tear gas and rubber bullets to try to stop thousands of blacks who found in and around Edendale. A man was killed when a crowd set fire to his car. Dozens were injured.

Inkatha and its rival, the ANC-allied United Democratic Front (UDF) coalition, oppose

apartheid but they differ over tactics. They accuse each other of using violence to force their views and political structures on Natal's townships.

Inkatha is prepared to fight for black rights from within structures created by Pretoria such as the KwaZulu tribal homeland, which is headed by Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi. The UDF opposes Buthelezi's strategy.

Residents said fighting flared anew Wednesday when hundreds of blacks from Sweetwaters township attacked the middle-class Caluza area of UDF-controlled Edendale.

Group carrying pangas and guns set fire to cars and houses as they roamed across rolling hills around Edendale, they said. UDF supporters blocked Edendale with barricades. Transport and business in the area came to a standstill.

South African ruling party ponders admitting blacks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's ruling National Party (NP) is thinking the unthinkable — opening its ranks to people other than whites.

After 76 years of white exclusivity and Afrikaner nationalism, it says it is committed to dismantling South Africa's apartheid system of racial segregation and therefore can no longer continue as a party for whites only.

"If we have to belong to a new South Africa, we have to look at the options of opening our doors to all races," party Information Director Rene Schoeman told Reuters.

He declined to elaborate, saying he did not want to pre-empt debate within the party. But government-supporting Afrikaans-language newspapers have touted the idea of integration since February when President F.W. de Klerk pledged to negotiate with the black majority over a non-racial future for South Africa.

"The question is on the table whether the National Party can remain much longer a party for whites only," said the weekly report.

"An open NP (is) necessary for new South Africa," said the daily Beeld.

The National Party is the power base for South Africa's Afrikaners, descendants of the first Dutch settlers who arrived over 300 years ago. The party seized control of the government from English-speaking whites in 1948 and quickly locked white supremacy into the complex legal code of the apartheid laws.

Political analysts say the party is currently trying with two options: Opening its doors to all races or forming electoral alliances with integrated parties and organisations.

Indications are that it might do both, allowing a trickle of non-white members while casting around for allies.

Alliances could be forged with parties within the segregated three-chamber parliament of whites, Indians and coloureds (people of mixed race) which has never been accepted as a legitimate body outside government circles because it excludes blacks, who form more than 70 per cent of the population.

Unpopular conservative black groups, including local government organisations which have co-operated with Pretoria but could not hope to compete alone against mass black organisations, are believed ready to join ranks with the "Nats."

Australian Labour could have four-seat majority

CANBERRA (R) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke Wednesday prepared a revamped government for his fourth term in office in anticipation of a Labour Party majority of three or four seats after Saturday's Australian general election.

Hawke's expectation of a workable parliamentary majority grew as electoral commission counting in the last marginal constituencies, in the close poll showed a swing towards Labour. Labour Party officials said the swing, from postal and preferential votes, could give Labour up to 76 seats and the Liberal/National Parties' Coalition 71.

The present tally, with seven marginals pending, is Labour 72 seats, coalition 68 and one independent, the commission said. Hawke, in power since 1983, held talks with left, centre and right-wing factions of his Labour Party on a revamped team for a fourth successive term.

Finance Minister Peter Walsh, who this week gave warning that Australia was in grave economic trouble, called for a rejuvenated team in parliament, which resumes in early May.

The Labour Party caucus had "a moral responsibility to elect the most talented ministry we can muster. We cannot afford anything less," he told reporters Wednesday.

The swing away from Labour, which had a 22-seat majority before the poll, was blamed by party analysts mostly on economic factors such as high interest rates on home and commercial loans.

Australia, suffering from a poor trading performance, also has an 118 billion Australian dollars (\$88 billion) net foreign debt, inflation of 7.8 per cent and an unemployment rate of 6.5 per cent.

Political analysts said a significant government change is likely to be that Treasurer Paul Keating will be given the additional largely ceremonial role of deputy prime minister, replacing the retired Lionel Bowen.

Keating would continue as treasurer until Hawke, who has vowed to serve his full three-year term, steps down, leaving Keating positioned to replace him, party sources said.

Any blood-letting in the coalition, which considered the election presented its best chance to govern for seven years, would wait until the final result was announced, party sources said.

Liberal leader Andrew Peacock will be under strong pressure to quit, possibly in favour of shadow treasurer John Hewson, the sources said.

12 Kashmiri militants escape from Indian jail

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Twelve militants opposing Indian rule in Kashmir have escaped from a maximum security jail, police said Wednesday.

A security check at midnight revealed only an empty cell, prompting a massive hunt through Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

There were immediate suspicions that the 12, all kept in one cell of Srinagar's Central Jail, might have had inside help to get out of the heavily guarded prison.

Police said most of the militants were members of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), one of the leading groups fighting either for an independent Kashmir or to join Muslim Pakistan.

All were held under tough anti-terrorist legislation that allows detention without trial for up to two years.

More than 200 people have been killed in Kashmir since mid-January when long-simmering resentment against Indian rule burst into violence.

Most of the deaths have been in the Kashmir Valley, where the secessionist groups have their greatest support.

An indefinite curfew was imposed on Hindu-majority Jammu Tuesday and troops were brought

in to patrol the streets after six people were injured in fights between the two groups sparked by the alleged defilement of a Hindu temple.

The Indian government says about 25,000 families have fled the violence in the Kashmir Valley, most of them Hindus who went to Jammu despite militant assurances that their targets were picked on political, not sectarian grounds.

Three people were killed in the Kashmir Valley Tuesday, two of them Hindus accused of being police informers.

Tension had been rising in Jammu with the influx of refugees and repeated demonstrations against Muslim demands to be free of Indian rule.

New Delhi has accused Pakistan repeatedly of arming and training the militants in the one-third of Kashmir controlled by Islamabad.

The two countries have gone to war twice over Kashmir. Pakistan rejects the Indian charges and says Delhi's neglect of the region is the basic cause of the uprising.

Police said a round-the-clock curfew would remain in effect for a second day after a young Muslim injured in the Jammu fighting died in hospital early Wednesday and a Sikh temple was attacked in the middle of the night.

Kohl to take unity drive to U.K.

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl beats the drum for German unity this week in Britain, the last of the four wartime allies he is visiting to calm foreign worries about the new state about to emerge in Central Europe.

Kohl and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will address a conference in Cambridge Thursday evening before holding talks and a new conference in London Friday.

Thatcher was notably slower and cooler than the heads of the three other victorious powers — the United States, Soviet Union and France — in accepting that German unity was inevitable af-

ter the Berlin Wall opened last November.

She and other British officials have lately been openly stressing their support for unity and diplomats here said tensions between Bonn and London had eased.

"Three or four weeks ago it was rather sticky," one envoy said. "Now the atmosphere is getting better."

The chancellor has already visited Moscow, Washington and Paris to allay fears the Germans' unexpected dash towards unity could produce an unpredictable superstate in their midst.

The often shaky relationship between Thatcher and Kohl was

rocked again Monday when she said he had vowed at the European Community summit in Strasbourg last December not to recognise Poland's western border.

The comment came in an otherwise positive interview in the newsweekly Der Spiegel in which Thatcher said European states had to get used to the idea of a larger Germany in their midst and should not try to create counterweights to it.

Kohl's spokesman promptly denied the chancellor had made any such comment about the post-war Oder-Neisse Line, which gave vast tracts of former German land to Warsaw.

Defence rests case in trial of Poindexter

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence attorneys rested their case in the Iran-contra trial of former White House adviser John Poindexter without calling him to the stand, leaving the jury to mull over key testimony by former President Ronald Reagan and sacked aide Oliver North.

Final arguments were set for Friday in Poindexter's trial on five felony charges stemming from the Iran-contra scandal, the worst crisis of Reagan's presidency. Deliberations could begin Monday.

The defence rested Tuesday after calling five character witnesses to the stand, including a senator, a congressman, an admiral, an episcopal priest and one of Poindexter's neighbours.

Poindexter, 54, a retired navy rear admiral who served as chief of Reagan's National Security Council, walked out of court smiling.

"All over for a while," he told reporters as he walked out with his wife and one of his five sons. "I'm fine."

Poindexter is charged with lying to Congress, obstructing Congress and conspiracy to cover up the 1985-86 plan to sell arms to Iran in exchange for U.S. hostages and then divert the profits to the Nicaraguan contra rebels despite a congressional ban on official U.S. aid.

Conviction on all counts could mean up to 25 years in prison and \$1.25 million in fines. Poindexter's attorneys have argued that he believed he was acting at Reagan's behest and never thought he was doing anything illegal.

To bolster their argument, they compelled Reagan to take the witness stand. It was the first time a former president was forced to give testimony about the inner workings of his administration.

But in nearly eight hours of videotaped testimony, Reagan was vague on the specifics of the Iran-contra plan. He did, however, identify it as a covert operation that he authorised.

The star witness for the prosecution was Oliver North, the Marine who served under Poindexter at the National Security Council and was convicted of three Iran-contra felonies last year. Reagan called North a "national hero" after the scandal broke in November 1986.

In three days on the witness stand, North was deemed so effective that lead Prosecutor Dan Webb cut the presentation of his case by as much as three weeks.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

2 Filipino generals, 19 others face trial

MANILA (R) — The Philippine Armed Forces Wednesday ordered two generals and 19 other officers to face courts martial on mutiny and murder charges arising from last December's army coup attempt. They are the first officers to face trial for their alleged role in the sixth and most serious military attempt to overthrow President Corazon Aquino since she took office in 1986. Opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile and five other civilians are also facing trial for rebellion and murder for alleged involvement in the insurrection.

Sri Lankan cabinet dissolved

COLOMBO (AP) — President Ranasinghe Premadasa dissolved the cabinet Wednesday as a prelude to appointing a new council of ministers, a senior government official said. Cabinet spokesman Ranjan Wijeratne said Prime Minister Dingiri Wijetunga resigned earlier in the day, clearing the way for Premadasa's action. Wijeratne, who held the posts of foreign minister and deputy defence minister, said Premadasa would name a new prime minister and cabinet Thursday. Wijetunga, who took office on March 3, 1989, gave no explanation for his resignation. Wijeratne said, "When he was appointed, the president had said the term would be a one-year period. The dissolution of cabinet was effective 12 noon (0630 GMT) Wednesday," Wijeratne said.

China denies reports on missile exports

PEKING (R) — A senior Chinese official Wednesday dismissed as rumours foreign reports that Peking had begun exporting short-range missiles to the Middle East. "Don't believe in rumours," said foreign ministry spokesman Li Zhaoxing when asked to comment on the reports. Li, recently promoted as assistant to Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, declined further comment. Western diplomats in Peking were quoted Tuesday as saying they believed China had started selling short-range surface-to-surface missiles. Two convoys of missiles, believed to be MIB Ballistic missiles with a range of up to 120 kilometres, were seen recently moving under police escort towards the port of Tianjin.

Pope names envoy to Hungary

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II Wednesday named the papal envoy to Colombia as the Holy See's first ambassador to Hungary in 45 years. Relations between Hungary and the Vatican, broken when the government expelled the papal envoy in 1945, were re-established in February. Pope John Paul appointed Archbishop Angelo Acerbi, 64, an Italian serving in Colombia, to the post. Hungary was the second Soviet Bloc country to re-establish ties with the Holy See after the Pope's native Poland did so in July last year.

Australian held for serial killings

SYDNEY (R) — A sales representative found unconscious in the home of a strangled woman was Wednesday accused of being the serial "granny killer" responsible for the murders of six elderly Australian women. John Glover, aged 58 and married, was charged in a Sydney local court with the six murders carried out over the past 12 months. The women, aged between 60 and 92, were strangled and battered to death with a hammer in wealthy harbourside suburbs in north Sydney.

Insects delay loading of giant telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A thimbleful of bugs is delaying preparation of the mammoth, \$1.5-billion telescope that will allow scientists to look deeper into the infinities of space than ever before. The giant-like insects, called Midges, were found in a room where the hubble space telescope was being readied for installation in space shuttle Discovery. They forced the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to delay loading the telescope until at least Thursday. Engineers fear the insects could damage the fragile 25,000-pound (11,340-kilogramme) instrument, the most expensive unmanned spacecraft ever built.

Mobutu hints at political reforms

BRUSSELS (R) — Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko hinted at political reforms in the country he has ruled as a one-party state for nearly 25 years, saying there would be changes. "You know what's happening across the world," he said in an interview broadcast on Belgian Radio Wednesday. "After thinking about it, I decided to consult my people so that everybody can tell me what he thinks... about the functioning of our institutions." Mobutu said, "There will be changes," he added, giving no time scale.

U.S. panel approves aid package

WASHINGTON — A U.S. congressional panel Tuesday approved a \$720-million aid package to help Nicaragua and Panama rebuild their shattered economies and approved aid for Soviet Jews settling in Israel.

The money to the Central American nations was part of a \$2.4-billion spending bill for the current fiscal year that includes funds for a wide variety of programmes and cancels \$1.8 billion in defence spending to help pay for them.

The package also includes \$70 million requested by President George Bush for transportation and resettlement costs for refugees coming to the United States, most of them from the Soviet Union.

It added \$5 million for Soviet refugees settling in Israel and included \$30 million in aid for African nations, \$15 million for eastern Caribbean countries, \$5 million for costs of damage caused by hurricane Hugo in Caribbean last year and \$25 million for worldwide emergency refugees food aid.

The House of Representatives Appropriations Committee also voted to provide Israel with \$400 million in housing loan guarantees to help resettle Jews from the Soviet Union.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had linked the guarantees to a ban on new Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger later said the administration would support the loan guarantees on condition Israel gave "adequate assurances" on how the money would be used.

The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee voted in a separate authorisation bill to reduce Israel's initial insurance payment on the guarantees.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	00	22	10 50 Clear
ATHENS	10	22	72 Clear
BAHRAIN	18	27	64 81 Clear
BANGKOK	27	81	81 Clear
Buenos Aires	08	20	46 68 Clear
CAIRO	18	35	64 95 Clear
CHICAGO	-06	22	10 80 Rain
COPENHAGEN	02	36	46 96 Clear
FRANKFURT	05	41	41 105 Cloudy
GENEVA	02	36	46 Rain
HONG KONG	21	25	77 Clear
ISTANBUL	10	50	50 104 Clear
LONDON	08	45	11 55 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	13	26	55 79 Cloudy
MADRID	02	36	46 Clear
MECCA	20	36	68 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-13	09	27 Cloudy
MOSCOW	-02	28	10 90 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	18	24	64 75 Cloudy
NEW YORK	-03	26	28 79 Cloudy
PARIS	00	32	48 Cloudy
ROME	10	30	50 86 Cloudy
SYDNEY	18	24	64 75 Cloudy
TOKYO	09	48	48 100 Cloudy
VIENNA	05	41	52 Rain

Romanian soldiers protest service extension

BUCHAREST (AP) — The army has announced that military service will be extended by two months, immediately prompting a noisy protest by more than 1,000 Romanian soldiers.

An appeal by Defence Minister Victor Stanculescu, which was read on national television Tuesday night, said the regular 12-month service would be temporarily lengthened by at most two months. It was based on a decree of the ruling provisional council of national unity.

May-Gen. Constantin Stefanescu who appeared on TV after the decree was read, said: "The presence of experienced soldiers (nearing completion of their term) is necessary so that preparations for the coming elections can go smoothly."

Romania's first multiparty elections are scheduled to be held on May 20.

Soldiers bearing signs reading: "We don't want to be mocked,

and we want the decree revoked," gathered in front of the government building on Bucharest's Victoria Square, where they were confronted by several hundred heavily armed guards who surrounded the complex.

Groups of soldiers varying in number from several dozen to more than 300 marched in the night through the capital from their barracks on the outskirts to join their comrades. They were greeted with loud cheers and bearhugs when they reached the square.

"We don't want to be lied to any longer," chanted the protesters, who started arriving at the square soon after Stanculescu's appeal was broadcast on television.

"The Romanian army has proved to be a factor of stability in the country," the decree said, "adding that the situation in some

part of Romania "has shown that measures are necessary for increasing the combat readiness of the army."

This was a reference to recent unrest in Transylvania, where bloody clashes occurred between Romanians and members of the 2 million-strong ethnic Hungarian minority.

"That is why the period of military service will be lengthened by not longer than 60 days," the announcement quoted the decree said.

"Military experience (of the troops) is necessary to ensure the fighting capacity of the army," it added.

Ever since the overthrow last December of Romania's Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, in which the army played a decisive role, the military has been used repeatedly to ensure law and order and to prevent political and ethnic unrest.

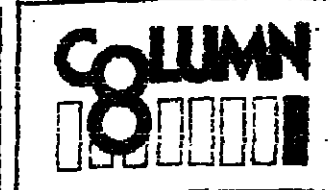
Its latest action was in the Transylvanian city of Tigris Mures, where thousands of soldiers were deployed last week to halt an outbreak of intercommunal fighting between Romanians and ethnic Hungarians.

But the moral in the armed forces has been reported to be low in recent months, and protesters in Bucharest complained that conditions for the ordinary soldiers were very poor.

We are used as unpaid workers, with very little food and no protective measures, said a corporal bearing the sign "specialised instruction means forced labour."

During Ceausescu's rule, much of the army was engaged in building its grandiose projects in Bucharest and elsewhere.

The term of military service, which is compulsory in Romania, was shortened from 16 to 12 months after the December revolution.



Thousands flock to see 'miraculous' aubergine

LONDON (R) — Thousands of Muslims have flocked to the house of an Asian man in central England who says he has found the name of Allah written inside an Aubergine. Zahid Kassam, 32, said Tuesday that when the Aubergine (eggplant) was cut open, the seeds formed the name of Allah in Arabic. Up to 4,500 pilgrims have visited Kassam's modest house in the town of Leicester since the local mosque said the vegetable was a holy object. "I feel it is my duty to show these people what has happened. We feel very blessed," Kassam said. His wife Farida bought the aubergine at a local shop and found the inscription as she was preparing to cook it. Last week an Asian living in nearby Nottingham also claimed to have found an Aubergine with the name of Allah inside it.

Scandinavian art sells for \$18m

LONDON (AP) — A painting of a seated child dancer by the Finnish artist Helene Schjerfbeck sold for \$1.1 million (\$1.78 million) in London Tuesday night, auctioneers Sotheby's said. The price was believed to be a record at auction for any Finnish painter and was paid by an unidentified Finnish buyer bidding on the telephone at the opening of a two-day sale of 19th and 20th Century Scandinavian art. The 46 works sold the first day raised \$8,017,350 (nearly \$13 million), more than the total for the whole two days of Sotheby's Scandinavian sale in 1989. The Schjerfbeck painting of the child putting on her shoes is called Baskarna or the dancing shoe. The artist, who lived from 1862 to 1946, went to Paris in 1890 and studied with well-known artists but after returning home she worked in comparative isolation from the mainstream of European painting. A distant landscape viewed through a dark, leafy opening, titled the yellow autumn picture, by the Swedish dramatist August Strindberg was the second-highest priced lot. It sold for \$968,000 (\$1.56 million) to an anonymous private buyer. The eight other highest-priced works in the sale were painted by Anders Zorn, Carl Larsson and Nils von Dardel of Sweden and Peder Severin Kroyer of Denmark.

Adam and Eve file harassment suit

WASHINGTON (R) — Adam and Eve are accusing the U.S. Justice Department of trying to banish them from capitalism's Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve is a mail order company that specialises in erotic books, videotapes and contraceptives and it filed suit in federal court Monday, claiming the Justice Department was trying to force it out of business through intimidation and harassment. The company accused the department of trying to take away its freedom of speech rights under the constitution to sell legal, non-obscene products. "It said it sold only to adults," Justice Department agents have systematically threatened Adam and Eve, the company's attorney Bruce Ennis said in a statement. Ennis said the department had threatened to file multiple prosecutions against the company in different states, which could put it out of business, if Adam and Eve does not shut down. The suit, filed in U.S. district court in Washington, asks the court to bar the Justice Department from threatening the company with prosecution or taking any action to coerce the firm and its employees to waive their constitutional rights.

Stuntman breaks world record

TORONTO (R) — A professional stuntman broke the world record for leaping between buildings when he jumped 6.5 metres from one five-storey warehouse to another. Roy Anderson, who wore a white hood and skintight red bodysuit with stars running down the sides, used no net or safety apparatus as he jumped from roof to roof. "I didn't worry about anything up there," he said. "It was just me and oblivion." The 26-year-old, whose movie credits include Rocky IV, eclipsed the previous record mark of 5.8 metres despite a pulled hamstring. Anderson, who received no money for his jump, now plans to look for a larger gap and higher buildings, possibly in the United States.